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Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Official on Lockerbie Confession

NC1406153494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jun (MENA)—Counselor Tal'at Hamid, press adviser to the Arab League secretary general, said the confession by Yusuf Sha'ban, member of the Fatah-the Revolutionary Council, that he was responsible for the bombing of the American plane over Lockerbie in 1988, is not the first of its kind that acquits Libya of this crime.

Commenting today on Sha'ban's confession, Hamid said there is another piece of evidence proving that Libya is not involved in the bombing: The president of the Swiss company that produced the timer used in the bombing retracted his testimony, on the basis of which Libya was condemned.

Hamid said the Arab League dealt with the Libyan-Western crisis objectively and rationally in accordance with the UN and Arab League Charters.

He said the Arab League's proposal that the two Libyan suspects be tried by a Scottish panel of judges in the International Court of Justice in The Hague was meant as a chance for a fair trial based on the legal rule that the suspect is innocent until proven guilty.

Hamid described the West's solid rejection of any peaceful solutions to the crisis as lacking in an objective justification.

Islamic Affairs

Muslim Brotherhood's Plans To Seize Power Detailed

NC1306053094 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 10 Jun 94 pp 14-19, 78

["Part Two" in a series of unattributed articles: "Getting Control—The Muslim Brotherhood's Plans to Seize Power"]

[Text] The document entitled "Getting Control" [al-tamkin] is probably one of the gravest Muslim Brotherhood [MB] documents seized in the "al-Salsabil" case. As its title points out, it deals with the MB's plans to seize power; the title means, as the document literally says, "to prepare for shouldering the duties of the future and acquiring the ability to manage state affairs, and this cannot be achieved without a comprehensive plan that takes into its calculations the need for the MB to penetrate the vital classes in society and its influential establishments while remaining committed to a specific strategy against the other forces of society and in dealing with the outside world's forces."

The document, which consists of 13 sheets of foolscap paper, makes the task of penetrating the student, worker,

professional, and business sectors and the less capable popular groups the cornerstone of the plan to take control because, as the document says, the MB's spread in these sectors will make the confronting the MB more difficult, will impose on the state more complicated considerations, and will also increase the MB's opportunities and ability to alter the situation and work to "get control."

But the document refers very clearly to the importance of the MB's penetration of the influential establishments in society. Herein lies the danger, because in the MB's view, the influential establishments are not just the professional associations, the media and judiciary establishments, and the People's Assembly, but also "other establishments" which are influential, have the ability to bring about change, and which the state might use in confronting and curtailing the MB.

The "Getting Control" document does not openly name the other establishments, and this is intentional. But the description very clearly refers to the army and police. Those who know the history of the MB are not surprised by this because the MB is the only political movement whose first option for reaching power always included penetration of the army and the police with the aim of seizing power. This was exactly what happened in Sudan recently.

The document also expounds a complete concept of how to deal with the unions, the pressure groups in society, and the political parties through a long-term policy, starting with "coordination," moving to "neutralization," then "containment," and then to taking the situation in hand and seizing control through controlling the decision-making centers. It also expounds on how to deal with Egypt's Copts, advocating a two-pronged policy: first, neutralize them by letting them feel that the MB does not pose a danger to them, and then second, limit the effectiveness of the Copts' role in public life and reduce their economic power in society.

Yet the most dangerous point in the document is the MB's concept of dealing with the outside world, especially the West and the United States. This reveals the MB's real face, because the document asserts the importance of making the West, especially the United States, feel that the MB does not pose a danger to their interests and that it is in the West's interest to deal with the MB after they succeed in "getting control" because the MB represents stability and discipline.

This is the content of the document, which we now publish in full together with an example of its application to all the governorates. We have not changed anything. As we said in the first part, these are the MB's own documents and papers, testifying to their plots to overthrow the regime and seize power.

It is composed of thirteen large foolscap pages with the title "Getting Control," written in the form of a report that stresses that the new stage in the MB's existence

requires confrontation and will not tolerate the generality of the former objectives of penetration and spreading. The document warns against making conflicting decisions on the situations facing the MB, the foreign challenges and threats, and the overt confrontation between the existing regimes and the political Islam movements operating in the political arena.

The document begins with two questions that constitute the core of the plan for "getting control." The first question: What do they seek to achieve? And second: What should be the short-term situation in regard to the accomplishment of the mission, continuity, preparedness for future tasks, and promoting competence?

The mission as the MB understands it and according to the text of the document is aimed at preparing its members to shoulder the tasks of the future and be capable of running the state, and at preparing the internal structure for the tasks of the stage of "competence." By competence, the document means drawing up a policy to confront external dangers, namely attempts to frustrate the MB's schemes to take power and penetrate the society through:

- spreading to the vital class of society and knowing how to incite them.
- spreading to the effective establishments, namely the army and police.
- dealing with other forces and; lastly
- making use of the external dimension.

The document underlines that spreading throughout the vital classes of the people and having the ability to incite them would yield several benefits for the Muslim Brotherhood. Most importantly, this permeation would lessen threats and make confrontation with the MB more difficult. The ability to incite these classes would enhance the opportunities for effecting a change and enhance the chances of achieving the mission, that is, the ability to run state affairs and take power.

According to the text of the document, the sectors of the people marked for penetration and permeation in order to control them were chosen on the following bases:

- ease of penetration
- ability to influence and incite them
- the ease with which they could be manipulated
- continuity of influence over them.

According to these four conditions, the MB chose students, workers, artisans, businessmen, and popular classes as the segments to accomplish the two parts of the plan for getting power.

Regarding the students, it is easy for the MB to penetrate them, spread among them, incite them, and continue to influence them.

Regarding the workers, it is easy to spread among them and incite them. As for the artisans, it is easy to penetrate and influence them and somewhat easy to incite them.

The businessmen are an easy sector to influence and to sustain the influence. The popular classes are easy to penetrate and incite.

The Army And The Police

Perhaps the most dangerous aspect of this document is the part dealing with implementing the plan for "getting control" in vital establishments. The document describes these establishments as those representing:

1. A tool to undermine and confront the Islamic movement.
2. A real addition to the movement's power and effectiveness in making changes.

Although these two conditions fit only the army and the police, as we pointed out in the preamble, the document's description of these establishments confirms our theory that they do mean the army and the police. The document says that choosing the vital establishments depends on the following criteria:

1. Their effectiveness in confronting and undermining the Islamic movement.
2. Their ability to make changes.
3. The comprehensiveness and broadness of their influence.
4. Long-term confrontation.

The document indicates the army and the police are two of its most important targets, along with the influential establishments, foremost among which is the media establishment. The latter, according to the document, has comprehensive, wide-ranging, and long-term influence, has the ability to make changes, and can prove effective in the confrontation.

Regarding the religious establishment, al-Azhar, the document says that it has the same characteristics as the media establishment, but in its own way.

As for the judiciary, the document notes that it is known for its effectiveness in causing change, particularly in the legislature—that is, the People's Assembly.

Dealing With Others

The document discusses in detail what is known as dealing carefully with others as part of the plan for "getting control" and the "know your enemy" method. It says: We are not operating alone, for there are other forces in the arena that negatively or positively affect our ability to perform our mission. Therefore, the continuity of the efforts for "getting control" requires careful action with a view to containing the others, coexisting, neutralizing, and minimizing the effectiveness of the opposing quarters, while coordinating with neutral quarters that have not defined their positions or that support our mission—the brothers in full or in part. The document adds: We have to take into consideration that we must be able to deal with different types of cases simultaneously.

There are options before the MB with regard to the authorities:

1. Containment by exploiting the authorities' establishments to fulfill the MB's mission through the decision-making process or by changing their systems.
2. Coexistence—in other words, working to create a form of coexistence with the regime by influencing situations and thus making the regime eager to keep our effective presence.
3. Neutralization by letting them—that is the authorities—feel that we do not pose a danger to them.
4. Reducing the authorities' effectiveness in the confrontation so as to continue the efforts to get control.

On the issue of dealing with the Copts, the document says: One of three ways of dealing with the Coptic community must be chosen:

1. Coexistence by convincing them that they have an interest in realizing Islamic rule and the justice it brings, which the present regime cannot provide.
2. Neutralization by making the Copts feel that we—the MB—are not hostile to them and do not pose any danger to them. The document calls this "securing" [al-ta'min], that is, winning over the Copts.
3. Reducing the scope of their threat and their economic influence and material force. The document defines this as "fragmentation"—that is, fragmenting the Coptic ranks facing the MB.

The document does not fail to define the stand vis-a-vis the Jews; it is limited to one line, namely: "The effectiveness of their threat in all fields must be minimized."

And the Groups

For the MB, the other groups include the pressure groups and the parties in addition to the authority, Copts, and Jews. It is not strange for the document to add the clubs, the suspicious societies "according to the document," the Islamic groups, and Islamist thinkers to the above groups.

Regarding the clubs and suspicious societies, the document says—without naming these clubs or their types—that their danger lies in their influence on the decision-making centers through executive figures and in their influence on public opinion through the leaders in the media and the arts. This leads to the adoption of decisions and laws that serve their interests to a great degree. Penetrating them is difficult due to the information that they receive from certain levels. The inability to prove their dangerousness in a practical way is clearly a weak point and we—the MB—must realize this in order to rectify it. We must cope with this sector by minimizing the effectiveness of their threat.

In the section dealing with parties and pressure groups, the document says: This section includes professional

associations, family and tribal groupings, international "human rights" organizations, economic forums like "the businessmen's society..." [ellipsis as published], and the existing parties. The document explains that dealings will take place at several levels:

1. Steering. Joining and controlling the decision-making centers so that we have a majority.
2. Coordination. If we do not have a majority, we must coordinate with them in areas where we have common grounds and even find joint interests with them.
3. At this level, the document combines the methods of containment, neutralization, and minimizing of the effectiveness of others should the steering or the coordination efforts fail. The document notes that dealing with parties and associations may take various forms because of their nature and the divergence of their views.

The gravest part of this document is the one dealing with the Islamic groups and Islamic thinkers. In this section, the MB openly reveals its position regarding these groups for the first time. According to the text of the document, this section includes:

- Independent Islamic groups and thinkers who are in agreement with us, even partly, regarding the mission but who differ over the details. This requires coordination, cooperation, integration, and alliances. If the alliance and coordination efforts fail, containment, neutralization, and coexistence tactics should be pursued.
- Nonindependent Islamic groups and thinkers affiliated with specific quarters that are used to strike at and obstruct our efforts at "getting control." Attempts should be made to steer, contain, or neutralize them so as to minimize their effectiveness.

America and the West

In another paragraph headed "Hostile External Forces—America and the West," the document says verbatim that dealing with them begins with the stage of coexistence. This can be achieved by persuading them that it is in their interest to deal with the existing forces in the region, and that as a force the MB is characterized by stability and discipline. However, dealing with the West will pass through a stage of neutralization. This can be done by letting the West feel that it is in its interest not to harm us, because we pose no threat to them so long as they do not obstruct the efforts for "getting control." In the meantime, we, the MB, could affect their interests should they stand against these efforts.

The last stage of dealing with the West and the United States is the one of minimizing their effectiveness, which can be achieved by means of minimizing their threat. This can be done by directly affecting their interests and weakening the ability of their institutions to influence the decision-making process for their interests. Whenever possible, however, we must benefit from the external domain.

Managing the State

The most dangerous point in this document is probably the plan for the coup that the MB is preparing in order to seize power and reach the stage of managing the state's affairs or what is termed in this document as the preparation for future tasks.

The document says: Creating a social situation that would allow us to "get control" requires that we be able to manage the state's affairs and that we realize it is possible that we might be compelled to manage the state's affairs by ourselves. At the same time, "getting control" will lead to the rallying of hostile foreign forces. Hence, preparations must be made to confront the internal and external challenges; this means that we—the MB—must have a plan for confronting these challenges by getting the necessary resources to do so and the ability to use them. This requires the preparation of the internal structure in line with the changing requirements and making the optimum use of the resources, which the document labels "competence" [al-kafa'ah]. The document adds that this is the practical challenge in achieving the various objectives of the plan. This requires the development of the particulars of the internal structure so as to be in line with the nature of the coming stage—both from the conceptual angle and the preparation of individuals and the internal structure—in the following way:

Regarding the concept—which is one of the most important sides in the triangle of competence—this requires the concentration of the membership's efforts on construction and change. Therefore it is important for the ranks, "the MB elements," to understand fully the issue of change and to have a very clear idea of its directions so that the plan will not meet with passive resistance from within. It is necessary to start submitting the issue of change to dialogues at all levels in order to let everyone interact and participate, thus initiating ideas and initiatives and giving substance to the issue.

Regarding indoctrinating individuals, the document says that the existing indoctrination program should include the effects of the plan on various particulars.

Permeating the classes of society, which is the core of the "getting control" plan, requires raising the individuals' ability to influence a large sector of society and thus improve the level of dialogue, the ability to convince and train through the following:

- Creating a balance between the propagation carried out by individuals so as to unite the ranks and make the propagation widespread.
- Developing the leadership circles and the ability to activate the groups.

As for permeating influential establishments, this requires the following:

- Raising the individuals' ability to penetrate the establishments without losing their identities.

- Raising the individuals' ability to handle information.

As for dealings with the other forces, individuals must be groomed to establish intellectual or practical bridges with them. As for the mission of running the state and future missions, this requires the following:

1. Attention must be given to a select group, which will develop the ability to run public establishments.
2. The ability to absorb and benefit from distinguished figures in various sectors.

Regarding structural building, the practical method of management requires:

- The availability of the necessary information to perform various missions.
- The establishment of the principle of authorization and decentralization in action whenever possible.
- The establishment of the principle of nonengagement of individuals, so they will be free to occupy important positions.
- The flexibility of the structure to allow for adding new entities in accordance with the plan "information apparatus- political relations."
- Completing the structure on the basis of the importance and priority of the action in the plan.

The Importance

After finishing with indoctrination and the structural formation of individuals and the structures of groups, the document moves to the most dangerous part. It outlines the priorities of actions in all sectors and the relative importance of each sector, and defines the degree of penetration achieved and those who will be targeted, using figures and percentages—which proves the scientific and methodological nature of the plan.

In this regard, the document says:

1. As far as ensuring the success of the efforts for "getting control," the social classes that must be penetrated are: Students, laborers, professionals, businessmen, and low-income people, in that order.

As far as the vital establishments are concerned, the following influential establishments could be named: The media, the religious establishment, the judiciary, the parliament. The document adds that the goal of dealing with others concerns the need to deal with the authorities first, then with the Copts, the Jews, the West, the suspicious clubs, pressure groups, parties, and Islamic groups.

2. Preparedness for future missions in "running of the state." The document names first the universities, professionals, public institutions, institutions that have a specific mission, and finally the economic institutions for "financing."

3. Betterment of society. The document here selects for penetration and infiltration the educational institutions,

the media, the religious and cultural establishment, economic institutions, and technological institutions.

4. As far as internal preparations are concerned, the goal is to deepen the vision and complete the structural formation and reforms.

As far as the four goals are concerned, the document allocates 40 percent of efforts to continuing the "getting control" plan, 30 percent to internal structuring, 20 percent to the betterment of society, and the remaining 10 percent to preparations for the future missions when "running the state."

Having precisely determined the importance of each of the four objectives of the plan, the document assigns weight to every track of action according to its importance and its contribution to the achievement of the set objective.

To the tracks within the first objective—"getting control"—the following weights are given: 50 percent to the penetration of society's vital sectors, 40 percent to the penetration of influential institutions, and 10 percent to dealings with others. Within these, there are subtracks, and each has its weight: In the penetration of the vital sectors, students are given 30 percent, workers 30 percent, professionals and businessmen 10 percent, and low-class people 20 percent.

In the track of influential institutions, the plan gives powerful establishments, "the Army and the police," 40 percent, and this goes up to 50 percent for the judiciary, 50 percent for the parliament, 30 percent for media, and 20 percent as a comparative weight for the religious establishment [figures as published]. In accordance with these weights, the plan sets the priorities of action in 1994 and determines rates to be achieved during the remaining seven months of this year.

Although the investigations have not yet determined the significance of these rates and standards, the MB says in this serious document that it made good progress in the stage of formation (2,100 points) compared to 1,425 points in the field of education, 900 points in economics, 780 points in the media, only 120 points in the area of parties and pressure groups, and 400 points in the shantytowns. This shows that the internal organization made fine strides and that there were various degrees and stages of penetration of society, as the document shows on its last page.

The Plan's Guide

In its final shape, the plan in itself constitutes the MB's manifesto of its future attempt to take over power and stage an internal coup against the existing regime.

The plan contains a guide specifying in detail and in accordance with a fixed and precise timetable the steps for staging the coup. The guide consists of five foolscap pages and six annexes, each representing a questionnaire

for studying the real situation in every governorate, from the street committees, to families, to the guidance offices in the governorates.

According to the document, the following steps must be implemented in chronological order.

The first step:

The Administrative Bureau would choose a three-member committee called "the committee of planning and follow-up" or some such name expressing this type of function. One of its members, the moderator at least, would be a member of the Administrative Bureau. The bureau would choose at least one person to act as planning and follow-up delegate in the governorate.

The committee's primary function would be to direct and follow up planning operations, including proper implementation of any future steps, examining the performance of all involved functionaries, and developing plans and major ideas prior to submitting them to the Administrative Bureau.

According to the document, it is advisable for the above committee to include a representative of the chief administrative or geographical division—that is, the main town or district center—and a representative for the various specialized divisions of the groups in the area.

The committee would meet and draw up a plan and a timetable to implement further steps.

The second step:

This consists of examining the Brotherhood's policies and deciding which policies must be maintained.

The Administrative Bureau in each governorate would carry out a detailed discussion of the Brotherhood's policies and arrive at two results. First, the policies would be translated into major guidelines governing the Brotherhood's activities in the governorate for the duration of the plan.

Secondly, members' comments and suggestions that the Bureau sees fit to submit to senior administrators and to the central planning unit would be recorded. These comments and suggestions are designed to improve policies and close any existing gaps.

The third step:

The local bureau in the governorate would examine the Brotherhood's course of action in the governorate during the previous plan. It would assess the following:

1. The details, clarity, and comprehensibility of the working plans.
2. The extent to which the objectives have been attained.
3. The lessons to be drawn from previous activities regarding the quality of planning and the competence of

the planners, the practicality of the previous plan, and the problems that surfaced during the implementation of the plan.

The fourth step:

Gathering information on internal and external conditions. This was perhaps the most dangerous step of the "Salsabil" office's tasks. The office's activities were confined to gathering, classifying, and analyzing the information on the internal and external conditions as follows:

1. The information on internal conditions will also include details about the Brotherhood's members. The field leader will ask every member to fill out an information paper about himself.

The information on internal conditions also includes details about the organizational and administrative status in the governorate. These details will be collected by the field leader and will be finally reviewed and classified by the governorate's planning and follow-up committee.

2. The information on external conditions will also include:

A. Details about the status of the state and society in general. The central planning unit will supply this information.

B. Details about the governorate's society and departments. The representative of the planning and follow-up committee in the governorate will provide this information.

C. Details about the institutions, companies, and departments with which our personnel have a connection. The field official or the officials in charge of branches and divisions will gather such details.

D. Details about the most influential figures in the governorate with whom we cooperate and who have direct influence on us.

The fifth step:

After gathering the information, the representative of the planning and follow-up committee will prepare a three-part report as follows:

First part: It contains a list showing the points of internal weakness and strength. This list is prepared from the information gathered by the internal unit. The representative is anxious to classify these points according to their importance and effect.

Second part: It contains a list detailing the job opportunities on the one hand and the challenges and problems facing our members on the other. The representative will classify this information and its effects on our activities and the dangers and threats this information represents in the future.

Third part: The representative will compare the opportunities and challenges with the points of weakness and

strength. He will define the opportunities which include points of strength that will enable us to exploit them. The representative will also define the points that we could not exploit easily due to the presence of specific weak points. He will define the threats that could increase due to the presence of weak points and that could be confronted by points of strength.

The sixth step:

Analyzing the previous objectives so that they can be used in the next stage. Also, assessing the success in implementing the objectives and comparing this with previous successes as mentioned in the first document.

The seventh step:

Here, methods of implementation are selected. The planning and follow-up committee would choose a set of appropriate methods to realize every objective. The committee would hold intensive consultations with the main formations in the governorates (geographical and technical).

The eighth step:

Drafting programs to put those methods chronologically, financially, and organizationally into practice. The planning and follow-up committee would translate the methods into plans of action with specified timetables. It would also specify approximate budgets for those methods and determine the organizational responsibilities for implementing every major activity.

The ninth step:

Sending the proposed plan to the formations in the governorates for evaluation and presentation to the base. The Administrative Bureau would supervise the forwarding of the proposed plan to the geographic formations and the technical divisions and its presentation to the executive bases in the governorates.

The various units would present their proposals to develop the plan to the Administrative Bureau. The bureau would refer them to the planning and follow-up committee, which, in turn, would examine them and try to use them to modify the proposed plan and send it back to the Administrative Bureau.

In this last stage, the Administrative Bureau would discuss the plan, decide on its final shape, adopt it as a basis for action, and send it to all formations so that they will be committed to it. The bureau would watch the progress of its various units in achieving the tasks assigned to them by the plan.

Here, the document known as the guide to the plan ends. It is the first practical model for implementing the "getting control" plan at the level of the governorate, beginning with the street committee and ending with the governorate's shura [consultative] council. The seriousness of the document lies in the fact that it uses scientific and technological methods in gathering information and

data from the field or the locality, and this is one of the known security methods. The information and the date are then analyzed to determine the points of strength and weakness to help implement the "getting control" plan—seizing power and staging a well-devised coup program which the Brotherhood adopts in its secret organization.

Again, these are their own papers and documents, signed by their leaders. There is no way to deny that the Brotherhood is a coupist organization that believes only in secret activity, no matter what public facade it uses.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's Sha'th Arrives in Gaza Strip 'To Stay'

TA1406170794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Report on interview with PLO official Nabil Sha'th by Yariv Ben-Yehuda at the Rafah border terminal "several minutes ago"—recorded]

[Text] Nabil Sha'th said today that East Jerusalem will be the capital of an independent Palestinian state. He said this prior to leaving Egypt for the Gaza Strip. Sha'th arrived at the Rafah border terminal several minutes ago. In an interview with our correspondent Yariv Ben-Yehuda, Sha'th refused to say when 'Arafat will arrive in the autonomous area:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Yehuda] Nabil Sha'th crossed into the Rafah border terminal several minutes ago. Sha'th told IDF Radio that no date has been set for Yasir 'Arafat's arrival in Gaza and Jericho, but he believes that 'Arafat will arrive by the end of the month:

[Sha'th, in English] He is preparing for his return. I don't have a date, but I suppose it will not be after the end of this month. I think he will be coming....

[Ben-Yehuda, interrupting, in English] How much money have you brought with you this time?

[Sha'th] I don't give out that information. The money that is being transferred here is enough to pay all the salaries that have not been paid and all the expenses that have not been paid. Very soon the World Bank is going to assume responsibility for transferring the \$42 million we agreed on in Paris. It will be transferred directly by the World Bank.

[Ben-Yehuda] What are you planning to do in the next few days?

[Sha'th] I am planning to start my life, my home, my office, and to solve the problems that have not been solved.

[Ben-Yehuda] You are here to stay?

[Sha'th] I am here to stay. [end recording]

Fatah Aide: Israel Seeking Gaza 'Massacre'

PM1006161194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Jun 94 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Fatah Central Committee Member 'Abbas Zaki Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: My Contacts With Opposition Factions Aimed at Averting Internal Sedition for Which Israelis Are Planning"]

[Excerpts] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Fatah Central Committee member 'Abbas Zaki, who has just returned from a mission to Amman and Damascus assigned to him by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has denied reports that he recently played a mediation role between 'Arafat and the factions opposed to the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement with a view to persuading them to participate in the [Palestinian] National Authority. He said that "these reports are absolutely baseless."

He added that "the contacts and talks he held with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Damascus and with the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the PFLP-General Command, and other independent figures were aimed at finding a formula for coexistence among the Palestinian forces so as to spare the Palestinian people the internal sedition and massacre the Israelis are seeking to detonate in Gaza so that it becomes like southern Lebanon."

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Zaki said that he was seeking during his contacts in Amman and Damascus to agree with the Palestinian parties on "a document of honor with which everyone would comply in the stage ahead." [passage omitted]

Asked about the nature of the future relationship between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, Zaki stressed that "Hamas' refusal to participate in the authority does not mean that it will not be in the self-rule institutions. The Palestinian police has welcomed it, and it too has agreed to participate in the rebuilding process."

He added that the relationship with Hamas is continuing in a manner that allows agreement on specific issues such as the form and nature of the next struggle and the ability to spare the self-rule areas an internal conflict. He pointed out that, "despite Hamas' refusal to join the authority's formation, the door of dialogue is still open to it." [passage omitted]

He pointed out that there is information about Israeli preparations to generate internal sedition in Gaza so that it becomes like southern Lebanon. They have been planning for that for some time." [passage omitted]

Zaki said that the factions with which he met in Damascus "are convinced of the need to work to avoid Palestinian-izing the conflict." He pointed out that these factions still insist on the need to torpedo the agreement

and its results. And that the talks with the factions in Damascus "focused on not harming the internal front and on continuing the democratic dialogue." [passage omitted]

Concluding his statement, Zaki warned "of an approaching massacre for which the Israelis are planning." He wondered: "Should our hands remain tied?" He went on: "We have not obtained anything in order for us to change our alliances. We have obtained only 4 percent of the Yigal Allon plan. So we should not—on the pretext that powers have been transferred to us—play any tyrannical role. We should not fight one another. The authority should not claim that it has begun to replace its conflict with Israel with a conflict with the opposition, which, in turn, should not escape from the Israeli monster in order to fight the authority."

Islamic Jihad Threatens Escalation of Activities

JN1406185494 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Sources in 'Arafat's police have said that the [Palestinian] policeman killed last night at a joint checkpoint manned by 'Arafat's police and Zionist troops was Khalil Abu-Hamzah. The incident occurred when he arrived to take up his position at the joint checkpoint on the Netzarim-al-Munthar road. Three gunshots were immediately fired at him from a nearby farm. One gunshot hit him in the right side of the chest. The source asserted that the shooting was deliberate.

Our correspondents say that the perpetrators of this operation were probably Mosad men and their agents or a group of settlers.

The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine has issued a statement accusing the settlers of killing policeman Abu-Hamzah. The statement said this criminal incident stresses that the Zionists harbor only malice and racism against the Palestinian people and all Arabs and Muslims. The life of a Palestinian is targeted just because he is a Palestinian, whether he is a policeman who is asked to protect the Gaza-Jericho agreement—an agreement that guarantees the security of both the Zionist entity and settlements—or the mujahidin who protect our people from malice, racism, and occupation.

In its statement, the Movement condemned this criminal incident, and emphasized that it will escalate its militant activities against the Zionists.

OPEC Affairs

'Sources' Say OPEC May Cancel Sep Meeting

PM1406134894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Riyadh Miqdadi: "OPEC Expects Oil Prices To Continue To Increase Until End of Year"]

[Text] Vienna—Well-informed OPEC sources have confirmed that OPEC ministers could decide to cancel their next ministerial meeting, scheduled to be held in September, with a view to sending a strong message to the market that OPEC is going to adhere to its decision to extend the enforcement of the output ceiling totaling 24.528 million barrels a day until the end of the year.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that there is great support for the Saudi proposal to cancel the meeting. They pointed out that this issue is at the top of the agenda of the OPEC ministers' meetings in Vienna this week. That is, in addition to compliance with output quotas and the election of a new secretary general.

An OPEC source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "The talks are being held this time in favorable conditions, as oil prices have increased by more than 25 percent since the organization's last meeting in March, and they are expected to improve further in the coming months."

The source added that "the continued gradual improvement in oil prices since OPEC's last meeting in Geneva last March confirms the success of the organization's strategy to defend its market quota."

The organization's sources expect oil prices to increase by another \$3 between now and the end of the year, provided member states adhere to their quotas. An official from one of the delegations said that "production excesses were the main cause of the organization's loss of a lot of its credibility in the market. And even though production excesses in recent months have been relatively limited, they have limited the chances of a bigger improvement in oil prices."

Algeria

Foreign Minister on Western Saharan Solution

LD1406202894 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Concerning Western Sahara, we note this statement by the Algerian foreign minister, as reported by the Moroccan daily L'OPINION. According to L'OPINION, Mr. Mohammed Salah Dembri said that a political solution that could bypass a referendum in Western Sahara is possible. Asked to be more precise, the Algerian foreign minister stressed that such a political solution would be a structure which would accommodate the Western Saharan status within a Moroccan entity.

Egypt

Mubarak Accepts UN Award, Meets Swiss President

NC1406190794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received the UN population award at a special ceremony held at the UN Headquarters in Geneva. The award is in recognition of Mubarak's pioneering role in resolving the population problem since he took office. UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali handed Mubarak the award. President Mubarak acknowledged it with a speech stating the need to resolve the problem of overpopulation in developing countries. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak met Otto Stich, president of the Swiss Confederation, at the offices of the Swiss delegation to the United Nation at noon today. According to Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, the two leaders exchanged views on a number of international and regional issues, particularly the Middle East. President Mubarak and Stich discussed recent progress in the peace process and the steps taken toward the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Agreement, according to Minister al-Sharif. [passage omitted]

Somali Official Says Situation Improving

NC1506072694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Somali Movement leader 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad 'Ali arrived in Cairo yesterday on a visit of several days to Egypt on the first leg of a tour of a number of Arab and African countries. He will explain the Somali viewpoint regarding the establishment of a confederation between the north and south. He expressed his gratitude to Egypt and to President Husni Mubarak, saying that Egypt offered a great deal to Somalia and its people. He noted that the reconciliation conference that was convened in Cairo among all Somali rival factions reached important resolutions that served the Somali cause. He pointed out that the situation in

Somalia is steadily improving and that calm prevails in the country. He said that a conference will be held next month for an agreement on the establishment of a confederation between the north and south so that there will be no central government.

Iran's Velayati Meets Musa, Denies Aiding Terrorists

NC1506064394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jun (MENA)—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has said that his various meetings with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa dealt, in total frankness, with the views of Iran and Egypt on many current issues and with ways to build confidence between the two countries.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM, which the paper will publish tomorrow, Wednesday, Velayati denied that his country has assisted any terrorist group in Egypt or Algeria. He also denied that Iran is holding Egyptian prisoners since the Iraq-Iran war. All Egyptian prisoners were handed over to Egypt, he said.

Velayati invited the foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] to visit Tehran to continue the peaceful dialogue on the future of the three UAE islands. This dialogue stopped about a year ago.

Velayati said: If there is a solution to this problem, then it must be found through peaceful dialogue. But if one side tries to get others involved in the situation or internationalize the issue, then this side will lose more.

The Iranian foreign minister expressed his belief that the security of the Gulf region starts with economic, political, and security cooperation, but he admitted that the essence of this idea has not been discussed.

Velayati said that Iran's spending on armaments, considering the population, is less than that of any country in the region. He said Iran spends only 4 percent of its budget on arms.

Minister on Muslim Brotherhood 'Terrorism'

NC1406205894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jun (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has stressed that the Interior Ministry has complete information about terrorist organizations in Egypt and abroad. He said the Interior Ministry has worked out an integrated plan to besiege these organizations.

The only aim of those groups, said al-Alfi, is to seize power for the funds they receive from abroad.

In a conference held today by the Egyptian-French Businessmen Society to learn about the security situation in Egypt and its impact on investment, the interior minister said the ministry is using developed and

modern methods, and arranging civilized and scientific training for personnel to confront the terrorist groups.

Security agencies will never rest as long as a single terrorist remains on Egypt's soil, al-Alfi said.

He stressed that the problem with the terrorist groups is not only a security one. All state institutions must contribute to the confrontation, and al-Azhar has a role to play in rectifying the extremist thought, he explained.

Asked about the involvement of Muslim Brotherhood members in terrorism, the interior minister said certain acts and facts indicate that some Muslim Brotherhood members committed acts punishable by law.

He said all facts and all emerging signs point to the involvement of those elements, who number more than 100 people, and are now being interrogated by the High State Security Prosecution.

He said investigations have proved that there is coordination between terrorist groups at home and abroad.

Al-Alfi also noted coordination between Egypt and other countries to confront terrorism and extradite criminals. He said: Training camps for terrorists do exist in some countries. We are not talking about a specific state, and it is in the interest of the investigations that everything is announced in due course.

Success in Containing Terrorism Noted

NC1406123394 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
10 Jun 94 pp 1, 3

["Calmly" column by Ibrahim Nafi]

[Excerpt] Based on highly trustworthy sources and confident of the accuracy of my information, I can say that Egyptian security has now succeeded in completely containing the terrorism phenomena and in accomplishing what has not been done by previous security efforts throughout the past years, that is, to fully penetrate the secret terrorist organizations that have tried to destabilize Egyptian society and distort the image of the Islamic religion in the eyes of the world.

This penetration, which is long overdue and succeeded by virtue of the current wise security policy, has achieved tremendous results in the past few months in liquidating one terrorist ring after another and uncovering all their leaders, financial sources, and lines of communication. What remains are only sporadic pockets that will be liquidated one after the other and no day will pass without the arm of security and stability uncovering one of them. This does not mean that we should belittle the danger of the hidden fingers that are still moving terrorism from inside or outside our country. This also does not mean that we must relax the policy of firmly confronting terrorism, which is being pursued by all sectors of the state, until this destructive wave that has undermined our domestic life and affected our economy and

the livelihood of large segments of our people has receded completely. [passage omitted]

Opposition's Demands on National Dialogue Detailed

NC0406104694 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 26 May-1 Jun 94, p 2

[Report by 'Abd-al-'Azim Darwish]

[Text] Opposition parties strongly suspect the positive response of the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) to their demand for making the long-awaited national dialogue more inclusive is nothing but a "conspiracy" to divide their own ranks. Opposition figures argue that the NDP, by including the chairmen of all political parties in a preparatory committee, sought to give "opposition doves the opportunity to swallow up opposition hawks".

In a letter to President Husni Mubarak last month, the opposition demanded the inclusion of all parties, regardless of their size or role, in the preparatory committee. Mubarak, who chairs the NDP, responded positively and decided to expand the committee from its original 25-member set-up. The committee's exact make-up, however, is yet to be announced, although it was said at the time that its first meeting would be held the first week of May.

Opposition figures feared that the minor, and largely moderate, parties would automatically align themselves with the NDP if they were represented on the preparatory committee, and would back the NDP in what the opposition views as its attempt to impose a "government-inspired" agenda on the proposed dialogue, thus pouring water on the burning issues opposition hawks seek to raise.

The NDP's decision to enlarge the preparatory committee "appears to be a positive response to opposition demands but in fact it is aimed at ensuring that a significant number of opposition parties take sides with the NDP and its government-inspired agenda", said Dr. Hilmi Murad, deputy chairman of the Islamist-oriented Labour Party.

At issue is the opposition demand, to which the NDP objects, that political reform be given top priority on the dialogue's agenda. Murad fears the minor parties would back the NDP's position that economic reform should take precedence over political questions.

Lutfi Wakid, deputy chairman of the leftist Progressive Unionist Party [NPUG], described as positive the NDP's decision to enlarge the preparatory committee. "But what really counts is action on the ground, the government's response to the people's demand for greater democracy," Wakid said. "Only when the dialogue materialises and results are achieved will we be able to say whether the NDP's decision was a good move."

Wakid said the decision, in itself, does not prove the good intentions of the ruling party. "It could be aimed at bypassing the opposition's demands," he said. "The course and results of the dialogue alone are what counts."

Murad, for his part, rejected repeated assertions by Safwat al-Sharif, the NDP's assistant secretary-general, that the hoped-for dialogue would not be a "dialogue of confrontation". Al-Sharif had argued the NDP did not plan to face the opposition across the negotiating table but, rather, all parties would be involved in the exchange of views.

But for Murad, a confrontation is inevitable. "The NDP has its declared policies and the opposition parties have declared theirs," Murad said. "If the NDP Government plans to simply listen to the opposition's views, the dialogue will be useless. The government must have the true readiness to be persuaded that other (opposition) policies might produce better results than its own policies."

However, Murad added this did not mean opposition parties shared identical positions. Wakid likewise noted there are "clear contradictions in opposition ranks", declaring some opposition parties were "more reactionary" than the NDP. As an example, he said the NPUG and Wafd shared similar positions on the demand for greater democracy and public freedoms but were divided by basic differences on the questions of social and economic development.

Murad conceded that the opposition parties were divided on the agenda of the proposed dialogue, but said coordination between them was possible. He stressed, however, that political reform should top the agenda "since political reform must constitute the basis of all other reforms, providing solutions to other problems".

Murad argued political reform would spell the end of terrorism. "All parties condemn terrorism in all its forms, but the dialogue is not meant to produce a declaration of condemnation. We should search for ways to uproot terrorism. Here, the importance of political reform emerges. Once young people have confidence in the ballot boxes, everybody will respect the decisions taken by the majority, even though those decisions may run counter to some people's interests," Murad said.

He said the NDP's Government did advance solutions to some problems "but those solutions did not work as a result of other actions by the same party. This underlines the importance of political and democratic reform to create the opportunity of democratic change through the ballot boxes," Murad said.

Nasirite Party Explains Reason for Leaving Dialogue

NC1006203494 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic
6 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[Statement by the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] When our party agreed to participate in the national dialogue called for by the president of the republic, it had hopes that the dialogue would signal the revival of Egyptian political life and serve as the beginning of discussions on the basic, genuine issues of our nation with a view toward ending the crisis our nation has been experiencing for years. [passage omitted]

The president's decision forming the so-called committee to prepare for the national dialogue came as a major shock that immensely frustrated Egyptian political circles. The formation of the committee was totally contradictory to the agreement among the political parties. The formation of the committee was supposed to come as a result of consultations among the political parties, not a decision by the National Democratic Party [NDP].

The overwhelming majority of the committee members are affiliated with the NDP, which is to blame for all the policies that caused the current crisis in the country. This was an ominous indication that its purpose is not to launch a serious political dialogue in which the energies of the nation are mobilized, creating a new hope, but to establish an elegant democratic facade to deceive our people at home and the world abroad—a facade behind which the current policies are justified.

It was not possible for our party to accept this fait accompli, especially considering that the committee includes some people who left their original posts a long time ago and devoted themselves to abusing and cursing the greatest and noblest symbols of our nation at the political and intellectual levels, and others who have dedicated their lives to defending Israel and Zionism. [passage omitted]

Libya

Decisions Made on Tackling Economic Problems

LD1406211994 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Excerpts] The Secretariat of the General People's Committee concluded today its 10th ordinary meeting for this year.

Following its two-day meeting, the committee adopted a number of decisions on facing up to some negative phenomena which have caused an increase in the prices of a number of commodities and services, and to the causes of the pressures on the Libyan dinar—pressures

brought about by certain unlawful practices—which have led to a drop in the real value of the income of part of the population.

The committee's Secretariat has asked the Central Bank of Libya to study the matter and come up with a date to start paying sums of money in hard currency to citizens to enable them to face up to their difficulties, as well as to define what sums of money should be paid in every deserving case.

The Secretariat has reiterated the need to the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for economy and trade and to the governor of the Central Bank of Libya to open the credits necessary for the provision of the local market with the required commodities, through the legally recognized channels. [passage omitted]

The Secretariat has also asked the Central Bank of Libya to consider an increase in the interest rate in order to encourage savings with the banks. [passage omitted]

JANA Editor on Reaction to Lockerbie Statements

LD1406200594 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1925 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Tripoli, 12 Jun (JANA)—The Western official mass media has launched a noticeable campaign, characterized by panic and alarm, against the statements made to a Lebanese court by Palestinian defendant Yusuf Sah'ban. The campaign has been started in an attempt to cast doubt over these statements. The Palestinian defendant has admitted to the whole world that he blew up Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie in Scotland.

JANA's international affairs editor comments on this by querying the reasoning behind the panic among the western mass media and colonialist quarters. He wonders about the reason behind this unprecedented uproar, which began when the Palestinian defendant announced his admission—which was heard by the whole world with no exception.

Does this panic express a breakdown in the plots of colonialism and material forces? This expresses their bitter feeling that they have failed once again, and in an undisputed way, to defend their fabrications, mask their lies, and to turn them into realities.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Meets U.S. President's Envoy

EA1406125594 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Jun (SUNA)—President General 'Umar al-Bashir met Monday [13 June] at the General Command the visiting U.S. president's representative Melissa Wells and the accompanied delegation. The meeting reviewed the recent initiatives toward realizing

peace in southern Sudan. General al-Bashir welcomed the representative's visit, stressing the government eagerness to solve the problem through the peaceful means, adding that the attempts for imposing sanctions has negatively affected the peace endeavors.

Wells in [a] statement following the meeting, described the visit as constructive, saying that she will leave for Wau to meet representatives of the other side (southerners). A message to General al-Bashir from Bill Clinton dealing with realization of peace in the south was conveyed by Mrs. Wells, Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, state minister, said.

Al-Bashir Briefs Council of Ministers on Kajo Kaji

EA1306210694 Khartoum SUNA in English 1630 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Jun (SUNA)—The Council of Ministers was briefed Sunday [12th June] by the president of the Republic, General 'Umar al-Bashir, on the details of recapturing of the strategic Kajo Kaji town by the Armed Forces. Al-Bashir has lauded zeal and struggle of the Armed Forces' troops and the People's Defense Forces' troops in the battle for restoring Kajo, explaining that the troops did not confront significant resistance from the outlaws who fled before the Army vanguards.

The president also pointed to the vast agricultural and economic potentialities of Kajo Kaji town. Adding that the government of Bahr al-Jabal State has finalized preparations for the return of Kajo Kaji citizens to their area.

Al-Bashir added that Bahr al-Jabal State is now totally free of outlaws, affirming that efforts to implement comprehensive development and to provide stability all over Bahr al-Jabal State will soon be started. He added that the federal government will extend every possible support to the services' utilities in Bahr al-Jabal State.

Al-Bashir Comments on Budget Proposal

EA1006111294 Khartoum SUNA in English 1758 GMT 8 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 7 Jun (SUNA)—President of the Republic Gen 'Umar al-Bashir has asserted the government's adherence to the policies of self-reliance and self-sufficiency beside the determination to continue boosting the country's defence and security capabilities. At his regular meeting with the media and press executives [on] Wednesday [8 June] Gen al-Bashir affirmed that the revolution is committed also to completing implementation of the federal government system.

Al-Bashir, commenting on the budget proposal, said these are the objectives endeavoured to be realized by the government in the fiscal year 1994-95. He stated that the new budget had decided to earmark 20 percent of the collected taxes to the states adding that the states will supervise the collection of taxes. He noted that the new

budget's bill endeavoured to realize maximum level, of social justice and support to the state and low income citizens as well as subsidize electricity and bread. [sentence as received]

The government will continue supporting agriculture and establishing food security projects in southern Sudan [words indistinct] emphasizing that the efforts to set up basic infrastructures and to provide services will also be maintained. President al-Bashir, meanwhile, declared the government's determination to achieve a growth rate reaching 10 percent, reduce the inflation rate by 55 percent realizing self-revenues reaching 8 percent against current expenditure at 8 percent in the coming fiscal year. [figures as received]

He pointed out that it is the first time the budget came free of deficit. Al-Bashir stressed that the state will not resort to borrowing from the banking system except for supporting the development projects and in accordance with the law. [passage omitted]

President al-Bashir has described the current budget as successful in realizing major achievements in the socio-economic, education, security, and transport fields, adding that a growth rate of 9.9 percent has been realized in the fiscal year 1994-95.

Al-Bashir, Departing Iranian Envoy Discuss Ties

EA1406223294 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] The president of the Republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, met today in his office at the Republican Palace with the ambassador of the Republic of Iran to Khartoum, Majid Kamal.

The Iranian ambassador said the meeting was held on the occasion of the conclusion of his mission in Khartoum while Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir assured him of the strong bilateral relations between Sudan and the Republic of Iran. The Iranian ambassador added that they touched, during his meeting, his stay in Sudan and the serious efforts exerted by the two sides for strengthening and progressing relations between the two countries.

Ustadh Majid Kamal concluded that he hoped Sudan-Iranian bilateral relations to witness further progresses for the benefit of the peoples of the two countries.

Al-Thawra Mosque Shooting Incident Trial Opens

EA1406223894 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] The first seating for the trial of Muhammad Abdullah 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Khulayfi and the co-defendant Muhammad al-Mahi in the al-Thawra mosque incident [4th February 94] was held this

morning at the Hall of Imam Ali at the judiciary headquarters under the presidency of Judge 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Sharafi, the high court judge.

At today's seating the court listened to the prosecution case that was followed by the investigation report.

It is to be recalled that the accused had executed the assassination of several worshippers at the Omdurman mosque incident.

Opposition Radio Will Not Transmit From Cairo

NC1006171694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jun (MENA)—Muhammad Mu'tasim Hakim, spokesman for the Sudanese opposition Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], has denied newspaper reports that Sudanese opposition radio will transmit programs from Cairo.

In a statement to MENA, he said that Sudanese opposition has never thought of setting up a radio in Egypt or in any other Arab country to beam at Sudan.

He asserted that the Sudanese opposition is eager to improve relations between Egypt and Sudan and that opposition radio will transmit in the coming days from an undisclosed location. He explained that the transmission will be for two hours daily, one hour in the morning and one in the evening. He added that the broadcast will contain programs for the Sudanese people to uncover the Islamic front's plots in Sudan.

He said the radio will be called "The Opposition National Democratic Grouping Radio." He added that the grouping consists of the DUP led by Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, the Ummah Party, the Popular Movement led by Colonel John Garang, the southern parties, the Sudanese Communist Party, the Sudanese National Party, and 51 workers unions and federations, in addition to the Sudanese Army's legitimate command.

Western Sahara

President Talks With African Leaders in Tunis

LD1506110394 (Clandestine) National Radio of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic in Arabic 2300 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Report by unidentified correspondent in Tunis]

[Excerpt] Good evening, ladies and gentleman. During the second day of the proceedings of the 30th summit of OAU heads of state and government being held in Tunis, Saharan Republic President Mohamed Abdelaziz and Secretary General [words indistinct] with South African President Nelson Mandela, an African leader who is well known [words indistinct] for his adherence to the principle of African liberation and [words indistinct] racial discrimination and colonialism [words indistinct].

The meeting between the two sides was held in an atmosphere of cordiality and with mutual understanding of the various issues discussed, which included developments in the just cause of our people and the obstacles to the removal of colonialism from the Western Sahara according to the UN peace plan [word indistinct].

The meeting also covered bilateral relations and ways to bolster and strengthen them.

On the sidelines of the summit Mohamed Abdelaziz also met the Ugandan and Congolese presidents; Malian President Oumar Konare; the president of Zambia; and former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, one of the first leaders of the OAU. [passage omitted]

UN Official on Eligibility To Vote in Election

LD1106125594 Rabat MAP in English 1229 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Rabat, Jun. 11 (MAP)—The identification of persons eligible to vote in the projected UN referendum in the Sahara is meant to make sure that the persons concerned actually meet one of the five criteria required for participation in the referendum.

This came in the interview assistant special representative of the UN secretary general for the Sahara and Chairman of the Identification Commission Eric Jensen had with Moroccan 'L'OPINION' daily.

Jensen said some of the criteria are simple while others are not. The simplest one is that of the persons on the lists of the Spanish census of 1974.

The identification process is meant to check up if the persons are actually eligible to vote in the referendum, he said, adding that "there are difficult cases, because some times the documents produced are very old, so it was necessary to associate chioukhs who know the [word indistinct] in the identification operation."

To a question on the duration of the operation, Jensen said "it is too early to tell. We have nearly 56,000 registered persons, but we expect much more."

"For the time being, I do not see any political difficulties." The two sides "ensured me that they are ready to apply the Security Council resolutions." "This means that we will actually start the identification process," he said.

The five criteria required for participation in the referendum are that people's names be on the lists of the Spanish census of 1974, the people who were living in the territory as a member of a Sahrawi tribe at the moment of the census of 1974, but who could not be covered by the census, the relatives of these two first groups (the father, mother and children), the people born to a Saharawi father born in the territory, the people, member of Saharawi tribes belonging to the territory,

who lived in the territory for six consecutive years or intermittently during a cumulative period of 12 years before December 1st, 1974.

Polisario Says Morocco Boosting Election Lists

LD1006190594 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] Western Sahara—The Polisario Front has said that Rabat has moved several thousands of Moroccans to Western Sahara in order to add their names to the election lists for the referendum on self-determination.

Polisario Statement on Voters

LD1106135594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] New developments have taken place in the Saharan voters' registration issue. After new information was given by the Saharan side with regard to the travel by thousands of Moroccan citizens to the Saharan territory, the UN mission in charge of organizing the referendum in Western Sahara denied this information. Over to you Abdelkader Cherti,

[Abdelkader] In a statement delivered to APS yesterday, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro [Polisario] affirmed the arrival by bus in recent days of thousands of Moroccan citizens in Laayoune and Bojador to participate in the voter identification, which started in Western Sahara under UN supervision before the organization of the referendum on self-determination in Western Sahara.

The Polisario Front said that the operation is considered a blatant violation of the UN peace plan in Western Sahara and the aim behind it is to undermine the referendum and spoil the atmosphere in which the UN committee for voter identification works.

In view of these developments, the Polisario Front called on UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and the UN Security Council to take the necessary measures to guarantee the smooth operation of voter identification in an atmosphere of freedom and strictness.

In contrast with the contents of the Polisario Front's statement, the UN committee in charge of implementing the referendum in Western Sahara denied yesterday evening the information contained in the Saharan statement and stressed that they did not notice buses loaded with Moroccan citizens, and, according to their statement, they did not receive any information to this effect.

MINURSO Refutes Polisario Claims

LD1106113794 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1010 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Rabat, 11 Jun—"MINURSO," the UN mission in charge of organizing the referendum in the Sahara, refuted the news reported by the "Polisario" [Popular

Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] from Algeria, which maintained that several thousand Moroccans have arrived in the Sahara.

A MINURSO official pointed out to AFP that "we have not noticed anything, and we have not seen any vehicles

carrying persons to Laayoune, where the mission's headquarters are, and we have not received any information in this respect from other Saharan towns."

In a statement published in the capital Algiers, the "Polisario" had announced the arrival of several thousand Moroccans to the Sahara [word indistinct] in hundreds of buses.

Yemen

Al-Bid, UN's Brahimi Discuss Crisis, Cease-Fire

*EA1406192694 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen
Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Jun 94*

[Text] Brother 'A' Salim al-Bid, the chairman of the Presidential Council, received in al-Mukalla yesterday Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, the envoy of the UN secretary general, with whom he discussed developments affecting the situation in the Yemeni arena and the UN envoy's efforts to bring about the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No. 924 calling for an immediate cease-fire and talks between the conflicting sides.

Brother al-Bid very warmly welcomed Mr. Brahimi to our country and expressed appreciation for the role he was performing toward rescuing Yemen from the calamity now afflicting its people. The brother chairman of the Presidential Council reiterated Democratic Yemen's position from which it was calling for an immediate cease-fire and implementation of the UN Security Council's resolution for the sake of the national interest and in response to the international will. He stressed that our country and people had rejected the principle of solving differences by resorting to arms. He briefed the UN envoy on the efforts made and continuing to be made by our political leadership to shield the Yemeni people from the suffering inflicted on them daily as the result of this war which 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the al-Ahmar gang had imposed on our people.

For his part, Lakhdar Brahimi reiterated the hope that the conflicting parties would observe the cease-fire resolution. He also briefed the brother chairman of the Presidential Council on the results of his meetings with the Sanaa leadership. The meeting was attended by brothers Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the prime minister; Muhsin Muhammad Abu-Bakr Bin-Farid, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and development; and 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Al-'Attas, UAE Leader Discuss Cease-Fire

*EA1406195794 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen
Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Jun 94*

[Excerpt] Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan al-Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], today received brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the prime minister, who briefed him on the developments affecting the situation in Yemen and on the war imposed on our people by the al-Ahmar gang and its effects on our people. For his part, Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan al-Nuhayyan expressed deep regret that the war was still continuing in Yemen, stressing the need for the implementation of the cease-fire to avert further bloodshed and destruction. [passage omitted].

Sanaa Reportedly Accepts Cease-Fire Proposal

JN1406192194 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] In Yemen, an official source said that Sanaa today agreed on the compromise cease-fire proposal presented by special UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi. Brahimi proposed that a joint Yemeni committee, which would also include foreign observers, supervise the cease-fire. The source announced that Sanaa informed Brahimi this evening of its acceptance of his plan.

Iran Denies Supplying Arms to Yemen

JN1406180094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has vehemently denied a report published in the French newspaper LE POINT saying that Iran has supplied our country with arms.

A statement distributed by the Iranian Embassy in Sanaa asserted that Iran's principled position on the current Yemeni developments is clear and unambiguous. This position cannot be distorted by these suspect media tricks.

The statement pointed out that Iran supports Yemeni unity and hopes that the existing problems will be resolved as part of the unified Yemen.

Aden Reports North To Accept Foreign Observers

*EA1406203194 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen
Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Jun 94*

[Text] His Excellency Lakhdar Brahimi, the envoy of the UN secretary general, said today that he had made progress in his efforts to bring about a cease-fire in the war being fought in Yemen. He told journalists in Abu-Dhabi, as reported by Damascus radio, that north Yemen had accepted proposals put forward by our country on sending international observers to supervise the cease-fire. The UN secretary general's envoy went on to say that he had been informed of Sanaa's decision this evening. He said this represented a major change in the position of north Yemen in that it had accepted the idea of Yemeni and foreign observers, whereas previously Sanaa had rejected any foreign role. In the same context, Associated Press has reported that this force be formed under the supervision of a committee comprising 11 military members representing the Arab League, the United Nations and Oman, and two military attaches [as heard] from the United States and Russia. The supervisory force should comprise between 100 and 150 officers drawn from the states represented in the supervisory committee. The memorandum defined the mission of the observers who would operate under the UN as implementing the cease-fire and guaranteeing the withdrawal of the forces, while the UN envoy was to take the necessary steps to render successful the mission of the force supervising the cease-fire.

South Urges UN To Form 'Acceptable' Observer Team

NC1406192994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Today the foreign ministry of the recently declared republic in south Yemen called on the permanent members of the UN Security Council, as well as Arab League members, to work closely to ensure the formation of an acceptable team to monitor the cease-fire in Yemen. The team should be selected from Arab, African, and Asian countries and be supervised by the United Nations.

A memorandum submitted by Aden to UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, who is currently in Abu Dhabi, proposes that the team of observers be formed of officials from Algeria, Mali, Senegal, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Egypt, and Syria.

Brahimi arrived in Doha tonight from Abu Dhabi, as part of his efforts to stop the war in Yemen.

UN Envoy on Sanaa's Acceptance of Observers

NC1406190494 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Lakhdar Brahimi, emissary of the UN secretary general, said that he achieved progress during his recent talks in Yemen. Speaking while on a visit to Abu Dhabi, Brahimi said that Sanaa had accepted southern proposals concerning the participation of neutral foreigners in a military committee tasked with supervising the cease-fire.

Lakhdar Brahimi today briefed United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan on the recent efforts to resolve the Yemeni crisis. Following the meeting, Brahimi said that Sanaa accepted southern proposals concerning the participation of neutral observers in a military committee whose task would be to monitor the cease-fire. Brahimi said: I believe that it is a significant development that the north has accepted the idea of Yemenis and foreigners [monitoring the cease-fire]. Therefore, I think that progress has been made.

Brahimi added that Sanaa's decision was conveyed to him early this morning. The decision represents a significant development because Sanaa had previously rejected any foreign role.

According to a southern official, the team of observers may include officers representing several countries, including the five permanent members of the UN Security Council as well as Arab countries such as Syria, Egypt, Jordan, and Oman.

'Responsible Source' Rejects Observer Proposal

JN1506054094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0436 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] A responsible source has made the following statement: The Government of the Republic of Yemen has been eager to deal with UN Security Council Resolution No. 924 out of its desire to end the rebellion in our country and spare the pure Yemeni blood. It emphasized on more than one occasion that its acceptance of this stems from the letter and spirit of the resolution, which was issued in accordance with the provisions and principles of the UN Charter, which guarantees the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of all states. Accordingly, the Government of the Republic of Yemen pursued all possible means to entrench the cease-fire and thus prevent the rebels and those standing behind them from prolonging the conflict, shedding more Yemeni blood, and internationalizing an internal problem. Our people have encountered this problem and our valiant Armed Forces have foiled its aims.

Out of its concern to put an end to those desperate attempts, the Government of the Republic of Yemen made a fourth attempt to entrench the cease-fire. The Yemeni members of the military committee, formed by the brother chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces before the rebels exploded the military situation in preparation for their secessionist announcement, were instructed to entrench the cease-fire. Despite that sincere initiative, the secessionist rebels immediately rejected it and shamelessly demanded international observers in the country, to be appointed by the UN Security Council. They have thus disregarded the fact that the Government of the Republic of Yemen has on more than occasion categorically rejected this.

Concluding, the source said: News media reports said our country has accepted a proposal the rebels presented to brother Lakhdar Brahimi, the UN secretary general's fact-finding envoy. This proposal was immediately rejected in part and parcel because it is in spirit and content a flagrant violation of UN Security Council Resolution No. 924; it also conflicts with it in letter and spirit. The source added that the maximum that our country has expressed readiness to accept is to discuss the possibility of reactivating the entire joint military committee, formed upon a decision by the brother chairman of the Presidential Council and the supreme commander of the Armed Forces.

It is noteworthy that the joint military committee mentioned in the statement consists of six high-ranking Yemeni Armed Forces officers, five Jordanian officers, five Omani officers, the American military attache, and the French military attache.

Sanaa Said To Reject Aden's Proposals to UN*WA1506015394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2035 GMT 14 Jun 94*

[Text] Sanaa, 14 Jun (MENA)—A responsible source in north Yemen has stressed that the Yemeni Government rejected the proposals that the rebels made today to Lakhdar Brahimi, UN envoy to Yemen.

In a statement broadcast here tonight, the source fully denied news media reports that Yemen had accepted the proposals. In spirit and essence, the source said, the proposals constitute a flagrant violation of Security Council Resolution No. 924, and they contradict the resolution in text and spirit, as the source put it.

The source said Yemen had announced it had accepted discussion on the possibility of activating a joint military committee, which was formed by a decision from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, in its full formation. The committee comprises six Yemeni Armed Forces officers, five Jordanian officers, five Omani officers, and the military attaches of France and the United States in Yemen.

It should be noted that Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, head of the proclaimed government in Aden, presented a proposal to Lakhdar Brahimi earlier today calling for the establishment of a team of observers drawn from a supervisory committee consisting of 11 military officers representing the Arab League, south Yemen, north Yemen, Oman, Jordan, and the military attaches of the United States, Russia, France, China, Britain, and a UN representative.

Sanaa Accepts Brahimi Plan; Saudi Help Sought*PM1506111694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Jun 94 pp 1, 4*

[Reports by Khayrallah Khayrallah in London, Sulayman Nimr and Faysal Makram in Sanaa, Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah in Aden, and Raghidah Dirgham in New York: "'Ali Salih Tells AL-HAYAH: With Saudi Arabia's Help We Can Achieve a Satisfactory Solution to the Yemeni Crisis"]

[Excerpt] In a statement to AL-HAYAH, Yemeni Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said: "We seek understanding with our neighbors. Our neighbors, especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, are the closest to us and, with their help and cooperation, we can achieve a satisfactory solution to the Yemeni crisis."

In a telephone statement to AL-HAYAH which called him from London, 'Ali Salih, when asked why there has been no adherence to the cease-fire, said: "They are the ones violating the cease-fire and they want international monitoring of it." Asked what was the solution, he replied: "Dialogue is the solution." He was then asked: Dialogue with whom? He replied: "With the elements not included in the public prosecutor's decision on

people who are now legally wanted on the charge of committing crimes against the homeland. We are willing to reach understanding with those elements and to hold a dialogue in the context of the Constitution of the Yemeni Republic and the constant national principles."

It is known that the public prosecutor's decision includes the names of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, chairman of the Presidential Council of the "Democratic Republic of Yemen" and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], and a number of YSP leaders including southern Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas and Defense Minister Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir.

AL-HAYAH has learned that a parliamentary delegation consisting of representatives of popular and political sectors is making contacts to pave the way for a visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the next few days. The delegation is expected to be headed by Yemeni House of Representatives Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar. Another delegation is making arrangements for a tour of the rest of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states.

Meanwhile, there were reports yesterday of more military pressure on Aden. Lakhdar Brahimi, envoy of the UN secretary general, announced yesterday in Abu-Dhabi that he was discussing with the Yemeni leaders a compromise solution providing for the participation of foreign observers in supervising the cease-fire in Yemen.

Brahimi told AFP that supervision of the cease-fire could be done "by a joint Yemeni committee with the participation of foreign observers."

The Algerian diplomat, who is scheduled to visit Qatar and Jordan later on, said that the plan currently under discussion would provide "common grounds" that would lead to the cessation of the battles which have been raging in Yemen for 40 days. He described the plan as a "positive step" in his mission aimed at implementation of Security Council Resolution 924. He added that the plan was a compromise between the positions of Sanaa and Aden.

The Yemeni Government yesterday informed Brahimi that "the deployment of international observers between the government forces and the secessionist forces could not be discussed at international level as demanded by the YSP's secessionists, and that there was a presence of international observers in the framework of the Yemeni Joint Military Committee which had the task of stopping the military deterioration which occurred during the political crisis before the outbreak of the battles and which, in addition to Yemeni military commanders, included Jordanian and Omani officers as well as the U.S. and French charges d'affaires in Sanaa."

A government source in Sanaa has stated that the Yemeni Republic conveyed to Brahimi its acceptance of the plan for the formation of a Yemeni joint military committee from the two warring parties to supervise the cease-fire with the participation of foreign observers.

The government source explained that the military committee proposed by the UN envoy was already in existence and had been formed with the participation of observers from Jordan and the Sultanate of Oman and some foreign attaches to embassies in Sanaa, such as the French and U.S. attaches.

The source said that urgent contacts held with Brahimi yesterday afternoon resulted in agreement that Sanaa would send representatives to a meeting with representatives of the other side and that Brahimi suggested Geneva or Cairo as a possible venue for the meeting. Sanaa is expected to name two representatives in the next few hours who would leave as soon as agreement is reached on a venue for the meeting, which would be held under the UN envoy's supervision.

The source added that, because of that agreement, Brahimi decided that there was no need for him to visit Sanaa again as suggested by the Yemeni capital yesterday morning.

There was increasing talk in Sanaa yesterday about a political solution to the crisis. Responsible sources had expressed the view that an agreement on the principle of dialogue between the two parties to the conflict on the basis of the proposals submitted to Envoy Brahimi when he visited Sanaa last week, a dialogue based on recognition of unity and constitutional legitimacy, would lead to an effective and practical cease-fire, but it seems that Brahimi insisted that there should first be a cease-fire before anything else. As a result, Sanaa responded to his request and agreed to the formation of the proposed cease-fire committee.

It seems that some elements in the Yemeni leadership are in favor of facilitating dialogue with the YSP leaderships without insistence on any conditions except that the dialogue should be within the framework of unity.

A high-ranking responsible source in Sanaa yesterday told AL-HAYAH that "the Yemeni Government's clarification of that matter, which was conveyed to the UN secretary general's envoy, stemmed from the decision issued by the Yemeni president on forming the Military Committee during the political crisis before the outbreak of fighting between the government forces and the misled forces under the command of the secessionist wing of the YSP."

The source added: "The Yemeni Government has, from the first weeks of the Yemeni crisis, been interested in the participation of military observers from fraternal and friendly states along with the Military Committee consisting of a number of military commanders from the Yemeni armed forces, because of the Yemeni Government's awareness of the real situation, since developments have demonstrated that the secessionists in the YSP had a premeditated plan for a bloody conflict to undermine the unity, security, and stability of the country."

In conclusion, the source said: "The Yemeni Government's acceptance of the presence of international observers is conditional on the international team being from the Joint Military Committee formed by a decision of Yemeni Armed Forces Commander in Chief President Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and in the context of joint cooperation between the Yemeni Government and the Security Council for the implementation of Resolution 924 on the current situation in Yemen, in a way that would not prejudice the Yemeni Republic's sovereignty, unity, and democracy, and with commitment to constitutional legitimacy and the results of the elections held on 27 April, 1993 as a basis of any dialogue between the Yemeni Government and the YSP." [passage omitted]

Sanaa Agrees To Revive Joint Military Committee
PM1506095494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Abdallah Hammudah, Hammud Munsir, Hani Naqshabandi, Taj-al-Din 'Abd-al-Haqq, and Muhammad Sadiq: "U.S. Warning of Disaster; Presures To Convene Security Council"]

[Excerpts] London, Sanaa, Abu Dhabi, Washington, Aden, Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Extensive consultations are being conducted in the UN corridors and a number of Arab and international capitals to convene another Security Council session regarding the Yemeni war after the failure of five attempts to establish a cease-fire between northern and southern forces and Sanaa's continued refusal to deploy international observers in Yemen to contribute to determining which party is responsible for the [cease-fire] violations. [passage omitted]

International envoy Lakhdar Brahimi stated that he "is discussing with Yemeni leaders a settlement plan stipulating the participation of foreign observers in supervising the cease-fire."

While the southern leadership in the Democratic Republic of Yemen supports that and has submitted a memorandum to Brahimi about its plan in this connection, in which it proposed the participation of some 100 to 150 officers representing the permanent member states of the Security Council and some Arab states (like Syria, Egypt, Jordan, and the Sultanate of Oman), in addition to Yemeni officers, official sources in Sanaa said that they have informed Brahimi of Sanaa's agreement to revive the joint military committee to supervise and consolidate the cease-fire.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau has warned of the threats posed by the continued fighting in Yemen to stability in the region and of the consequences and human disasters that may result from it. [passage omitted]

A north Yemen source stressed that Sanaa has not agreed unreservedly to the principle of bringing in international observers, but it replied to a proposal conveyed by

Brahimi which says that the secessionists told him that they did not want the committee to be Yemeni only. So Sanaa agreed to re-form the joint military committee, which used to include northern and southern officers as well as military experts from the Sultanate of Oman and Jordan, in addition to the U.S. and French military attaches in Sanaa.

The northern source said that the southern leaders' proposal to form a team of international observers from representatives of the OAU, the Arab Maghreb Union, and the EC, and the permanent member states of the Security Council, provided it operates under the UN flag, is aimed at diluting the issue and perpetuating the concept of two separate entities. However, the source stressed the northern leadership's principle of holding a direct dialogue with southerners in Cairo or the United Nations before Brahimi submits his report to the UN secretary general on the contacts he has conducted with Yemeni leaders in Sanaa and al-Mukalla. [passage omitted]

Russian Experts Said Preparing Sanaa's Air Force
PM1506092394 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Jun 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Russian Experts To Prepare Northern Air Force"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Yemeni military sources have said that Russian aviation engineers

have arrived in Sanaa recently to supervise the preparation of a squadron of Sukhoy fighter aircraft.

The information says that the five engineers who were granted entry visas to Yemen at Sanaa airport are: Alivov Alikovich, passport No. 1402266-41; Otsirnov Alikov Bigrovich, passport No. 1402267-41; Blukhin Tsikhal Ikhliuvich, passport No. 1402265-41; Bgribneskiy Ginya Livovich, passport No. 1402264-41; Yamorin Vladimir Ivanovich, passport No. 1279750-431 [all names as transliterated].

Aden had accused states it did not name of financing a huge arms deal which includes Sukhoy aircraft for Sanaa, saying that these arms are supplied from the former Soviet Union's arsenal in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Information obtained by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT says that Colonel Muhammad Salih al-Ahmar, half brother of the Yemeni president and commander of the Air Force and Air Defense, was behind the official invitation sent to the five Russian engineers, as mentioned in the original version of the invitation document sent by the General Staff in Sanaa.

Sources say that Yemeni Embassy officials in Moscow pointed out to the Russian experts that there was no means of transport to Sanaa as a result of the fighting, but the experts surprised Yemeni diplomats by saying they would go to Sanaa by a special plane—which confirms the existence of direct contacts between Sanaa and the Russian experts without the Yemeni Embassy's knowledge. The sources add that northern military [officials] visit Tashkent to purchase various types of weapons, especially fighter aircraft.

Barzani, Talabani Meet To Boost 'Reconciliation'
PM1406140094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in
Arabic 14 Jun 94 p 4

[Report by 'Adnan Husayn: "Barzani and Talabani Meet in Silopi, Turkey"]

[Excerpt] London—In a surprise step, the two Iraqi Kurdish leaders Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani moved to Turkey yesterday and held a bilateral meeting in the city of Silopi near the border with Iraq. Kurdish sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the meeting, in which Turkish military and security officials participated, was arranged by Ankara.

Iraqi opposition sources see the meeting as evidence of the difficulties still facing the two Kurdish leaders regarding normalizing conditions in north Iraq after the fighting that broke out between Barzani's party and Talabani's party. Sources from the opposition "[Unified] Iraqi National Congress" told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone from the congress' offices in the Kurdish city of Salah al-Din that the Turks are interested particularly in consolidating the reconciliation between the two Kurdish leaders and preventing fighting from breaking out between them again. Fighting would affect security conditions on the border area between Iraq and Turkey, which Ankara says is being used as a staging post for attacks against the Turkish forces stationed in the mainly Kurdish southeastern provinces by the separatist Workers' Party of Kurdistan, which is launching a guerrilla war against the Turkish state. [passage omitted]

Talabani, Barzani Discuss Kurdistan Situation
NC1406172694 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of
Kurdistan in Arabic 1608 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] A delegation from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], led by PUK Secretary General brother Jalal Talabani, met with a delegation from the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], led by KDP Leader Mas'ud Barzani, in the city of Silopi in Turkey at 1030 yesterday. A Turkish Government delegation attended the meeting, which was held to discuss the means and possibilities of normalizing the situation in Kurdistan, speeding up the agreements already approved by the two parties, and consolidating security and stability in the Kurdistan region.

Barzani Radio: 51 Killed in PUK 'Massacre'
JN1406200094 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan
in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Dear citizens: We will broadcast the report on the al-Sulaymaniyah massacres, adding the latest information on the shooting of defenseless civilians by the forces of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] on Monday, 13 June, during a peaceful procession to lay to rest the body of martyr 'Uthman Qadir Munawwar, member of the working committee of the fourth branch of our party,

[Kurdistan Democratic Party] and the commander of the al-Sulaymaniyah region in the Ministry of the Peshmergas Affairs.

We have received additional information that the number of demonstrators reached into the hundreds of thousands, raising slogans praising our party and reiterating the genuineness of this Kurdish city. Many of the girls and women of al-Sulaymaniyah, who were leading the peaceful procession, were martyred, and hundreds, including a large number of women, were wounded.

Yesterday, the PUK continued to chase and arrest the citizens who took part in the procession or those suspected of being loyal to our party. The most serious issue is that the life of those under arrest is in danger. We now appeal to the friends of our people, world public opinion, the United Nations, the Kurdistan Front forces, the Iraqi opposition, and personalities to intervene swiftly to save the lives of the thousands under arrest, to release them immediately, and to respect the processions during which at least 51 martyrs will be laid to rest.

Fighting Between Barzani, Talabani Groups
JN1506091694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 15
Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jun (INA)—The Autonomous Region in Iraqi Kurdistan is witnessing fierce battles, chaos, and lack of security under the alleged protection provided by the 30-state alliance and the support of the Iranian regime and some regional and international quarters.

In a report published today, AL-JUMHURIYAH quoted Kurdish citizens as saying that after the two-week bloody battles, the groups of Mas'ud Barzani control the areas of Banjwin and Qal'at Dizah. Iranian helicopters participated in these battles in accordance with an agreement Barzani concluded with the so-called Islamic Movement in Iraqi Kurdistan and the so-called Hizballah Party Shur Shkanri Kurd [name as transliterated] led by Adham Barzani and Shaykh Muhammad Khalid, son-in-law of Mas'ud Barzani.

The newspaper said that in these clashes and liquidation operations 65 people of Talabani's group and 11 armed men of Barzani's group were killed, in addition to the hundreds who were injured on both sides. The heavy fighting in Banjwin and Qal'at Dizah forced citizens to escape the shells that haphazardly fell on their houses.

The newspaper added that the so-called Democratic Party of Kurdistan, which controls these two areas, issued a stern warning to fleeing citizens that their houses will be demolished and property confiscated if they do not return to their homes and bow to the orders of his group.

AL-JUMHURIYAH said it has information that a few days ago Iranian helicopters raided the area of Qahlajulan, where the headquarters and residence of agent Jalal

Talabani are located. These helicopters also raided Ban-jwin, Qal'at Dizah, and the villages of Banqahlah and Ramaw, which are controlled by Talabani's group.

A huge demonstration was staged from Salah-al-Din University a few days ago in which thousands of students participated to protest the crimes of the war of liquidation in which innocent people are victimized by the hate and vengeance of the Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani groups, whose statements show their inability to reach an understanding.

Paper Criticizes Clinton Letter to Congress

JN1006092094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT
10 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jun (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that the mean letter U.S. President Clinton has sent to the Congress, and the fallacies it contains, is evidence of the hidden rancor that stems from a political mentality devoid of any values of political credibility.

In an article entitled "U.S. Fallacies," the paper says: Clinton claimed that Iraq has not responded to the UN Security Council resolutions and is working against them. Here, we have the right to ask: How can this opinion fit in with the acknowledgments and credits given by the United Nations and some UN Security Council members, who agreed that Iraq has made positive, important, and basic steps in dealing with the UN resolutions?

The paper adds: We think Clinton has seen the periodic reports by Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, in which he clearly noted the positive Iraqi position in dealing with the UN resolutions; nor do we think Clinton is unaware of what International Atomic

Energy Agency officials say, especially since the UN Security Council halls are not very far from the U.S. capital, Washington.

The paper explains that the only credible thing for the United States to do in order to confirm its objectivity and sound judgment is to hold the Security Council responsible for the delay in implementing Clause 22 of Resolution 687 and not deny what Iraq had achieved.

The paper says: What Clinton claimed, to the effect that the positions of all UN Security Council members on Iraq are united and identical, should be denounced. If he is concerned about accurate analysis, then he should acknowledge the changes that have taken place.

The paper wonders: Why did Clinton, in his letter, ignore what the Russians, French, and Chinese—all permanent UN Security Council members—have said about the need for the UN Security Council to change the way it is dealing with Iraq, following the great strides that have been made? Why did he ignore the opinion of the vast majority of the Security Council non-permanent members who called for lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq?

The paper says: Why did Clinton neglect the state of apprehension and concern his envoy to the UN Security Council was in while she was trying to promote her arguments, with feeble help from the British envoy, in the recent Council deliberations.

The paper concludes by saying: What Clinton has said is absolutely untrue and runs counter to the truth. It is a cheap attempt to jump to conclusions and deceive world public opinion into believing unfounded conceptions. If the U.S. Administration has made lies its daily political commodity, then it will certainly be a rotten commodity that cannot survive in the face of facts.

Rabin on PLO Control of Autonomy, Talks With Syria

TA1406045494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0400 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says Israel is waiting for PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to assume control in Gaza and Jericho before it continues negotiations with the PLO. The prime minister spoke at a news conference in Haifa last night. Sylvia Leaf reports:

[Begin recording] [Leaf] Yasir 'Arafat will be allowed to enter Gaza and Jericho whenever he wishes, Prime Minister Rabin told reporters, but he must also assume responsibility over the Palestinian authorities.

[Rabin] At this stage, I am focusing to see how the PLO, through the Palestinian Authority, succeed to take over and to control, in accordance to their commitment to us on the DOP [Document of Principles] and the Cairo agreement, to fulfill their parts. Before that, I will not pass any judgment.

[Leaf] Regarding a peace agreement with Syria, the prime minister said the Syrians believe that America can influence Israel against her will, and this attitude won't succeed. He stressed that solutions can be found only when agreed upon by both Israel and Syria.

The prime minister said the recent closure of the territories to Arab workers has resulted in the employment of a further 25,000 Israelis in the building industry. Justifying his authorization of work permits for 25,000 Palestinians from the territories, Rabin pointed out that in the past year, no terrorist attacks have been carried out in Israel by Palestinians permitted to work here. [end recording]

IDF Responds to Human Rights Group's Report

TA1406194194 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 1920 GMT 14 June 94

[Issued by the IDF Spokesman's Office]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unequivocally denies the assertions made by "Human Rights Watch" in their report claiming that IDF personnel use torture in order to obtain confessions from Palestinian detainees.

Any means of torture or violence against detainees is forbidden under Israeli law, and any confession extracted against the free will of the detainee is inadmissible as evidence. The rules of questioning which apply to military detention facilities were approved by the Judge Advocate General Corps, and the IDF strictly abides by these rules.

Furthermore, there exists a mechanism for the strict supervision of military detention facilities by an advisory committee to the Chief of the General Staff, headed by the President of the Military Appeals Court.

These facilities are open to visits by, or are under the supervision of, representatives of the Attorney-General, the Military Police, lawyers representing the detainees, the Red Cross, and other human rights organizations.

In addition, every detainee may raise complaints against the behavior of IDF personnel carrying out questioning, and the manner in which the confession was taken from him, when he is brought before a judge in order to extend his detention, or during his trial.

In cases where complaints have been raised about the methods used during IDF questioning procedures, the complaints were immediately investigated by the Military Police, and when evidence corroborating the complaints was found, the suspects were brought to trial. It should be emphasized that the number of complaints is minimal.

IDF Officer on Cooperation With Palestinians

TA1406130794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0830 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Brigadier General Yom-Tov Sami', head of the Israeli-Palestinian liaison committee, says that the joint IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Palestinian police headquarters have proven themselves a great success. Sami' said the security situation in the autonomous areas is satisfactory, and voiced optimism concerning the Gaza-Jericho agreement. He added, however, that unless the economic situation in the Gaza Strip improves, the security situation could deteriorate. Our correspondent Geva' Qra'-Oz reports that Brig. Gen. Sami' divulged that in the framework of their preparations for Yasir 'Arafat's arrival in the Gaza Strip, the Palestinians have started preparing a helicopter landing pad in Gaza, despite the fact that they are not authorized to do so.

Entry Ban Eased for Palestinian Women, Children

TA1206053694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0400 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal has announced that Palestinian women, regardless of age, and youths up to 16 years old can enter Israel freely again. The move eased an entry ban imposed on Palestinians from the territories following the wave of bombings in early April. Shahal said he hoped the move would lead to a return of normal life but this would depend on the Palestinian side.

A Qol Yisra'el reporter adds that despite the closure of the territories, police have been arresting several hundred Palestinians weekly for illegal entry into Israel.

No Israeli Access to Jericho During 'Arafat Visit

TA1406125594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1200 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Major General Ilan Biran, commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Central Command, says that

during the Yasir 'Arafat's stay in Jericho, Israeli citizens will not be allowed to enter the city. Maj. Gen. Biran added that it is clear that many residents of the territories will want to enter Jericho during this period and the IDF will not prevent them from doing so. It must be realized, however, that the small Jericho area cannot contain hundreds of thousands of people. Maj. Gen. Biran spoke in a briefing to foreign correspondents. Qol Yisra'el English Department correspondent Dick Winter reports that according to Maj. Gen. Biran, the Cave of the Patriarchs will be reopened in five to six weeks at the earliest.

Settlers Said Planning Months'-Long Protests

TA1306145594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
13 Jun 94 p A3

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Text] The demonstration by several hundred settlers outside the Prime Minister's Office is due to turn into a series of sit-down strikes, in which thousands of settler families will take part for several months. It will involve the voluntary evacuation of dozens of settlements for many weeks. The plan's guidelines are detailed in a document issued by the operational headquarters of the United Command of the Zionist Camp, which set up the protest encampment opposite the Prime Minister's Office. This document has reached HA'ARETZ.

The encampment is currently being operated in a restricted form following consultations with the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Prior to PLO head Yasir 'Arafat's arrival in Jericho, the camp will be expanded sharply for three days and then reduced again. The settlements which have so far participated in the restricted format are Ma'ale Levona, Yitzhar, Bet Hagay, Qiryat Arba', and Bet El.

The document, disseminated to the settlements, says among other things that "we are not discussing an ordinary Rose Garden model demonstration [outside the Knesset], not a representation from each settlement, but participation by most inhabitants of the settlements, by entire families. Those who support families will continue going to work, their base being a strike, while essential work in the settlement will be left to a minority which may not come.

"This is an act that requires devotion and endurance. It is built not on breaking the law, closing roads, going to jail, etc., but on a massive legal demonstration by a very large public, prepared to do what is needed to save the nation and the state from those who collaborate with the enemy against their blood brothers."

"Success," the document says, "depends on creating the right atmosphere in the settlements, which will reflect the gravity of the situation and our national responsibility during these difficult times, and which will inspire the entire public to stand like a pillar in the face of the

government's astonishing abandonment of all Jewish, Zionist, security, and existential values. We must initiate a sit-down strike, which will last several months, outside the Prime Minister's Office until there is a shift in the political reality towards the settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

"The message is simple. The minority government's scheming—underpinned by Israel's enemies—against citizens whom successive Israeli Governments sent to inhabit settlements, is unbearable. The government broke all the rules. We must respond by also breaking the rules," the document says.

The paper contains a series of questions and answers which present the anticipated vacillation over the plan. Question: "Will the government not be pleased by the fact that we will abandon settlements?" Answer: "We are not discussing abandoning settlements, but a sharp demonstrative act against the government's scheming against the settlements, its forsaking the security of the settlements, and endangering all the citizens of the country...."

Question: "Will not basing the strike mainly on settlers make the struggle sectarian and will it not play into the hands of the left and the government?"

Answer: "A sharp demonstrative act by a sector hurt by the government is legitimate and acceptable. Beyond that, it involves thousands of families taking to the streets and backing by thousands of families living in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, who constitute a very large sector of society. All this shows that the sectarian issue is secondary in this case. Thousands of striking families will be an unbearable phenomenon for the government.

"Any departure from routine life constitutes a problem for the government. When a plant is closed by the government and its workers hole up in the closed plant, the government negotiates to make sure the workers get what they want. Dozens of closed settlements, thousands of citizens permanently in the streets, is an unbearable situation for any regime...."

Question: "Does such an act not weaken the settlements?"

Answer: "The government's plan is demonic, to slowly weaken the settlements until the settlers leave freely. The process will go on not matter what. Routine life continuing in the settlements is in the government's interest. The settlements' steadfastness is meant to erode the Palestinian police's assistance to attacks by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] constituting part of the international observer force."

The joint command of the right-wing movements plans to hold demonstrations today at five main Jerusalem junctions as a sort of dress rehearsal to test the public's response prior to implementing its plan to take to the

streets on the day of 'Arafat's arrival in Jericho. At the same time, dozens of other settler families plan to reinforce the encampment opposite the Prime Minister's Office.

On the day of 'Arafat's arrival in Jericho, the planners say that activity is planned for Jerusalem, when they hope hundreds of thousands will participate. If 'Arafat plans to reach Jerusalem, these people will be diverted to the Old City.

A gathering organized by three bodies was held in Jerusalem yesterday: the Rabbis Union for Israel and Eretz Yisra'el, headed by Rabbis Avraham Shapira, Sha'ul Yisre'eli, and Moshe Tzvi Neriya; the right-wing professors circle; and the "Follow Me" forum of senior army officers in the IDF reserves.

The officers even announced yesterday that "we will stop 'Arafat with our bodies" and published "call-up orders" to their friends "to be prepared for action so as not to permit mass murderer 'Arafat to enter the gates of the country."

Rabbi Hayim Druckman, who moderated the gathering, said that Israeli nationalists are not prepared to accept the current situation. "We will not permit such a situation to take place. We will do everything we can to foil it. We are sure that the people do not want it to happen," Druckman said. When the gathering ended, the participants held a protest march to the prime minister's residence.

Delegation Leaves for Economic Talks in Rabat

TA1306152794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400
GMT 13 Jun 94

[Text] The Israeli delegation to the multilateral talks in Morocco has left for Rabat. In the Morocco, the participating states will deal with joint tourism, economic, and development projects. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports:

[Begin Segal recording] This round of multilateral economic talks being held in Rabat, Morocco will focus on new proposals on regional economics in transportation, agriculture, and tourism. The Israeli delegation, led by Bank of Israel Governor Ya'akov Frenkel and Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir left for Morocco this morning. The delegation will discuss implementation of European plans, such as the establishment of a joint tourism Riviera between Jordan, Egypt, and Israel on the Red Sea. Within that framework, there are plans to open the Jordanian-Israeli border to tourism and to linking the transportation and electricity infrastructures along the coastline. Fourteen Arab states—including the PLO—and 25 states outside the region—including the United States, Japan and the EU—are participating in the fifth round of economic multilaterals. A Foreign Ministry delegation headed by 'Oded 'Eran, assistant director general in charge of economics, was in Morocco last week to prepare the meeting with the Moroccans.

The Foreign Ministry believes that progress along the bilateral track will permit progress in the Rabat talks and along the Jordanian track.

Other political-economic activity is being conducted by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres himself, who left for Luxembourg this morning to attend a meeting of the European Council of Ministers. Peres is trying to persuade the ministers to reword the economic accord between Israel and the EU. [end recording]

Full Diplomatic Ties Established With Vatican

TA1506095094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0800
GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Israel and the Vatican this morning officially announced the establishment of full diplomatic relations and the setting up of embassies. Under the agreement signed yesterday, two joint committees—one economic and the other judicial—would be set up.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, in announcing diplomatic relations with the Vatican, said he believes the idea of dividing Jerusalem up into boroughs while maintaining a single municipal authority would be raised in the negotiations with the Palestinians. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir asked the deputy minister if the Vatican responded to Foreign Minister Peres' letter to the Norwegian foreign minister on Jerusalem. The Likud views it as strengthening the assumption that responsibility for the Christian and Muslim holy places in Jerusalem would be handed over to the Palestinians. Beilin said that the Vatican did not refer to the Peres letter, but asked to be a partner to all negotiations on the Jerusalem holy places.

Five Senior Rabin Aides Quit in 6 Weeks

TA1306133794 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Jun 94 p 2

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Excerpts] The prime minister's bureau has recently been emptying of its senior officials, and the prime minister is not taking care to fill the ranks. The last person to leave was Jacques Neriya, the prime minister's political adviser.

Several days ago Neriya advised Rabin of his intention to leave the bureau. He will join the new secretary general of the Histadrut labor federation, Hayim Ramon, and will head the Histadrut International Affairs Department. [passage omitted]

Neriya's resignation was the last in a series of resignations from Rabin's bureau over the past several weeks. Hayim Asa, who was slated to head the national security team at the Prime Minister's Office, was recently forced to resign. Asa charged that Shim'on Sheves, Prime Minister's Office director general, and Eytan Haber, head of Rabin's bureau, the two most senior aides to Rabin, were to blame for his resignation. According to Asa, the two are preventing other bureau employees,

including very senior ones, from having access to and contacts with Rabin, thus harming the bureau's proper working procedures. The officials who left Rabin's bureau over the past six weeks are: Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein; Gad Ben-Ari, the prime minister's media adviser; Attorney Nira Poran, adviser on information and public affairs; and Colonel 'Amos Gil'ad, the prime minister's army affairs adviser.

Despite this mass desertion in a relatively short period of time, none of the evacuated posts has been permanently manned—although the posts are most important and some are very sensitive, and despite the fact that candidates who are considered to have particularly good backgrounds and potential offered themselves for all of the posts.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 13 June reports that "Shim'on Sheves, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, denied that Jacques Neriya, the prime minister's political adviser intends to resign from his post. Sheves confirmed that Hayim Ramon had offered Neriya a senior position in the Histadrut labor federation several weeks ago; however, Neriya had not given Ramon a positive answer. In an interview with Qol Yisra'el, Sheves denied that advisers were resigning from the prime minister's bureau en masse, and said that everyone leaving was had viable and different reasons."]

Rabin's Rule Called 'Monarchical,' 'Intolerant'

TA1406180594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
14 Jun 94 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "The Eunuchs and the Castrated"]

[Text] Upon being discharged from the hospital Hayim Habersfeld expressed his disappointment that the prime minister had not inquired about his condition, visited him, or phoned him even once. "I have never seen such a thing in all my years in politics," said the man who lost four toes to diabetes, as well as the Histadrut labor federation elections. Of course, it was all Habersfeld's mistake. If instead of lying in the hospital he threw a cocktail party and included trendy clothes designers, hairdressers, businessmen, industrialists, and several sycophant journalists among his guests, not only would he have received a phone call, but the royal couple themselves would have honored him with their presence.

Did we say royal? Well, it is no slip of the pen. We have seen all sorts of regimes in this country—a semi-messianic regime, a semi-bolshevik regime, a semi-chaotic regime, a full-blown down-to-earth regime, and a full-blown pomp-and-circumstance regime à la Ze'ev Jabotinsky—but we have never had any regime as monarchical as Rabin's. However, contrary to present-day monarchs who are mostly symbolic figures in ornate uniforms, Rabin sees himself as an anointed autocrat, like the kings of ancient history.

Habersfeld served as secretary general of the Histadrut for only 19 months, but paid the cumulative price of the mistakes committed by Labor and the government with regard to the Qupat Holim sick fund. Primarily, however, he paid the price of Rabin's personal failure in the Ramon affair. Only the government, which allowed the situation to deteriorate to such a point, is to blame for Qupat Holim's woes and the suffering that will be inflicted on its three million customers in the next few months. Instead of being angry with itself, however, the throne is angry with Habersfeld. Had this happened a few centuries ago, he would probably have been beheaded in the town square, seeing as how in the Byzantine court that surrounds the prime minister only one person is right while all the rest are guilty and losers.

More than one foreign journalist has recently expressed surprise that the government's popularity in public opinion polls is not soaring in spite of its peace policy. Quite the contrary, a feeling of despondency (or "down syndrome," as one journalist put it) hovers over the country. Rabin's men attribute this to a mid-term crisis (apparently fashioned after a mid-life crisis) but I doubt this is a passing mood. This is a confidence crisis caused by the gap between the arrogance projected by the prime minister's court and the gradual collapse of the main elements that instill a sense of confidence in the citizens (housing, jobs, health, and pension). We will reap the fruits of Gaza-Jericho only in the distant future, if it has a follow-up. But, when it comes to the well-being of the citizens, the feeling at present is one of hopelessness.

Although there is as yet no evidence that the state health law will provide the population with better health care, what we are witnessing now is a retreat to Qupat Holim's darkest days. Pension funds, the bedrock of security for wage-earners in their old age, are on the verge of collapsing. In many places, the economic hardships are unbearable and the chances of buying a house are growing dimmer by the day. Thousands of learned analyses about the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange will not alter what seems to be the real reason for what is happening there: a basic lack of faith in the government's promises to improve the economy. Shulamit Aloni is right when she says that "Labor is in a state of deterioration." Highway overpasses do not build a country.

The nature of the regime emerging in the second reign of Rabin the First is largely to blame. The court consists of two types of royal advisers: the eunuchs and the castrated. The former are Rabin's closest advisers, who have learned from experience that only by being yes-men will they keep their positions, seeing that the prime minister absolutely abhors anybody giving him advice that conflicts with his own views. Although they are mere clerks, his minions intimidate cabinet ministers and other elected officials. Neither in the infamous days of MAPAI [Israel Workers Party, a Labor precursor] nor in the days of Begin, who was regarded as a demigod, was there a court so manipulative of the media, so intolerant of criticism, and so imperious on the personal and political level.

It goes without saying that the castrated are elected officials and prominent Labor members who are cabinet ministers. It is hard to recall another elected government that was so subservient to, so scared of, and so groveling to the prime minister as the current one. The nation's leaders are divided into several categories: Those to whom Rabin is indebted to but does not care about, those he cannot stand, those he does not appreciate, those he scorns, and those he would gladly fire from their jobs if his ability to make decisions was anything like his ability to look down on his colleagues in the government. What all of them have as a common denominator is that although they bear collective responsibility, none of them has the foggiest idea of what is going on—they are not consulted on either strategy, tactics, or the considerations deciding the fate of the country, except for those occasions when Rabin needs a rubber stamp.

And so it has come to pass that at this time unto Israel there is a king. But where is the leadership?

Sharon Explains Need for New Likud Elections

TA1206192494 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
(LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 3 Jun 94 pp 10, 26

[Article by Ari'el Sharon: "Why Now?"]

[Text] Irrational antagonism has been and is an emotion shared by the two political blocs. I have observed it both here and there. When it rages, falsification, distortions, and deception occur. "Heavy guns" are either engaged, or give their assistance freely; they range from absent-minded professors down to self-anointed orientalists, from a journalist who shot his own hand during the war to another who has written one thing and its opposite several times over.

I do not propose to waste my time on any of these, nor on some Knesset activists who have been vigorously demanding my ousting from the Likud. For my part, I intend to leave them all in and to cooperate with all of them. With each on the merit of his talents and capabilities. Because what we need is unity.

I believe I represent the Likud stands in the political, security, settlement, economic, and social spheres.

I owe them no explanation. I do owe one to the many thousands of ordinary Likud members who wonder why I have spoken up, and why now.

The security situation is deteriorating. The government argues that this is the much-desired peace, but meanwhile, it is sowing seeds of war. Jerusalem is turning into the Palestinian state's capital before our very eyes, yet the government is doing nothing to prevent it. The danger is right here. And the Likud is paralyzed. It is 1994, yet the Likud is still talking about the 1977 autonomy.

This is what caused my rallying at this time to avert the war in which the government is liable to entangle us. I want to try to unite the large national bloc, which must launch action at once.

First of all, the political process must be halted, and withdrawal should be stopped. No more withdrawal. Terrorism is to be tackled seriously and eliminated before it causes war in the heart of Israeli cities. We must regain full control of Jerusalem and rid it of the incipient "Palestinian government complex." We must enhance our hold over the entire city.

All national bloc factions must start formulating a clear-cut political plan at once.

"He is a schemer: He plotted against Begin and against Shamir, and now he is plotting against me." [Netanyahu's remarks about Sharon] No humility whatsoever. The comparison to Mr. Begin, even to Mr. Shamir, is pretentious and ludicrous.

True, I often argued with Mr. Begin when I served on his government. For instance, I totally disagreed with him on the matter of autonomy, which will commence the establishment of a second Palestinian state.

Conversely, I helped him make peace with Egypt, set up settlements, make the difficult decision to bomb the nuclear reactor in Baghdad, and wage a war on 'Arafat and the PLO in Lebanon. Is that scheming?

I intensely disagreed with Mr. Shamir, who committed a momentous, historical error in consenting to participate in the Madrid conference without demanding, as precondition, that the arms race be arrested, that terrorist organizations disbanded, and the Palestinian refugees problem resolved in countries of their current residence. I further disagreed with his unwillingness to fight the intifadah with appropriate means, with his inuring the nation to the existence of terror victims as a matter of fact, and with his allowing the establishment of the PLO's government residence in Orient House in Jerusalem. Is that scheming?

Jewish history will not pardon his two blunders: his failure to nip the intifadah in the bud and to prevent the establishment of the Palestinian government's residence, both of which occurred while he was prime minister, and both of which could have been prevented. We may disagree with the prime minister, and sometimes it is our duty to do so.

"Sharon was unable to obey authority in other frameworks, too," Mr. Shamir added.

I would like to tell you about the other frameworks, of which Mr. Shamir is apparently oblivious.

In the 1950's, I insisted that successful retaliation operations could be staged, and I carried them out. I was one of the few generals who insisted, who were absolutely certain that we would win the Six-Day War. And it came to pass, and I shared in it, and I was successful.

In 1973, I insisted that the Suez Canal could be traversed, that failure could be turned into victory, and I did it. I insisted on driving 'Arafat and his terrorists out of Beirut, and they were indeed driven out.

At one time, I insisted on establishing the Likud, and despite the contempt and derision, I was successful, enabling a new regime to rise to power for the first time in Israel's history.

I insisted that 100,000 apartments could be built and that tens of thousands of other apartments could be renovated in a short period, in a bid to resolve the housing problems of hundreds of thousands of immigrants and homeless Israeli families, and I did build them.

"He is seeking rehabilitation," they said.

I am not the one who should seek rehabilitation. I never needed it. Those who brought Palestinian terrorism into Israel—the same people who conducted a hideous, dangerous, unethical political campaign during the Peace for Galilee war [Lebanon war]—they are the ones who need rehabilitation. And they will never have it.

"It is undemocratic; a candidate has already been elected," they argue.

The new leadership has been granted a whole year of grace, not the customary 100 days. I would have been happy had they been able to do their job. Unfortunately, this leadership has been unable to unite the ranks and launch a genuine political struggle against the government's foul-ups.

As will be remembered, Likud leaders correctly contended only weeks after the last elections that although it had been democratically elected, this government should be replaced, because it did not have a mandate to carry out the drastic actions it was attempting. I would like to ask you: Am I to be forbidden to demand of my party, the Likud, which I cofounded, the same thing the Likud leadership rightfully demanded on a national level, namely—new elections?

"Sharon did not participate in votes on no-confidence motions, the highest expression of anti government struggle," the chairman further cried out.

I participated in some, in other instances my absence was offset by the other side, and as for the thing in general, it has long become a hopeless farce.

Only people who have never built a house, planted a vineyard, plowed a field, or paved a road can think that words are "the highest expression" of anything. Action is the supreme expression of anti government action, as is

the bolstering of Jewish settlement throughout Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, and the Jordan Rift Valley.

More families in settlements, new roads connecting settlements, new kindergartens, the absorption of immigrants, strengthening Israel's last defense line against withdrawal to the 1948 borders. An indefatigable information campaign abroad—this is the main struggle, and this is what preoccupies me.

"His move will harm unity and the Likud's prospects of returning to power," they add.

On the contrary, unity will grow. I have proposed establishing a united national bloc, a "superbloc" while maintaining the framework of existing parties. The joint appearance will give the national bloc an enormous impetus and bring it many new supporters. If open primaries are held by members of the entire national bloc and its supporters, one candidate acceptable to all will be elected.

"He brought on the downfall of the previous government," they spin their yarn.

The responsibility for the Likud government's downfall lies with the team that ran the elections, and those people are the ones who are spreading false rumors today. They conducted an bungling election campaign. They refused to display achievements—and there were many of those—out of "extraneous" internal considerations. Knowingly, they initiated the split in the Likud camp already during the preliminary party elections. They wanted an "attractive Likud," they sought "to restore the Likud's old glory," and they are still pursuing their quest today.

"In what way are you abler or better?" they ask.

The question is not whether I am better or abler, but rather whether I am more experienced.

What matters today is not the personal fate of one candidate or another, what matters is the fate of the country.

Arrow Test Launch Completed 'Successfully'

TA1206114694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 12 Jun 94

[Text] The Arrow antiballistic missile has been launched successfully. In the eighth test of the Arrow system, the attacking missile passed close to the target missile. Its warhead exploded, fragments hit the target as planned, and for the first time ever succeeded in blowing it up.

Our army affairs correspondent Yariv Ben-Yehuda reports that the launch was conducted from a ship not far from central Israel's seashore.

UN Envo to Yemen Brahimi Arrives After Contacts

JN1506052294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Excerpt] UN envoy to Yemen Lakhdar Brahimi arrived in Amman early this morning after holding intensive contacts on the Yemeni crisis with the involved parties and with a number of regional leaders over the past two days. Meanwhile, the Yemeni Government announced its categorical rejection of the secessionist leadership's proposal to dispatch international observers to monitor a cease-fire in Yemen. More details in the following report:

In an arrival statement in Amman, Brahimi said that talks now focus on a proposed working mechanism for the Yemenis to agree on to entrench a cease-fire, in addition to many proposed ideas. He noted that there is another proposal to activate the work of the joint military committee, adding that both parties agreed to it. However, he said, no agreement has been reached so far on the nature of the committee's work or its formation, expressing his belief that there are no differences over the participation of Jordan and Oman in this committee. Brahimi said: Both parties to the conflict agreed on the Security Council resolution, a cease-fire, and the principle of dialogue. He added that the United Nations supports any agreement between the two parties. [passage omitted]

King in 'Good Health' After Checkup

JN1406203794 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2006 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: A short while ago, we learned that Lieutenant General Dr. Samir Farraj, the private physician of His Majesty King Husayn, has stated that his majesty the king left the Mayo Clinic medical center in Rochester in the United States this morning after undergoing extensive medical tests. The medical tests have shown that his majesty the king is enjoying good health, and that there are no traces of the disease which prompted surgery for his majesty the king two years ago. Consequently, such tests will be conducted once per year, instead of once every six months, Dr. Farraj added.

Al-Majali Leaves to Join King in U.S.

JN1406161494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali left Amman [for Washington] this afternoon to join his Majesty King Husayn.

In a press statement at Queen Alia Airport prior to his departure, Dr. al-Majali said that the summit due to be held between His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. President Bill Clinton is important. He added that during this

summit, the two leaders will discuss the means of promoting and enhancing Jordanian-U.S. ties, regional developments, and international issues. Dr. al-Majali went on to say: They will also discuss the most recent developments in the peace process, particularly those relating to the Jordanian track of negotiations, as well as the negotiations on the other tracks, especially the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of negotiations, because we believe that the negotiations on these tracks should see progress. Jordan's firm position underscores the need for a comprehensive solution. He noted that the progress made on one track is also good for the other tracks of negotiations.

On inter-Arab coordination at this phase, the prime minister said: The concept of coordination is not being seriously observed. The level of inter-Arab coordination has not risen to the desired levels. He indicated that coordination among the Arab sides engaged in the peace process has continued to take place whenever there is an opportunity to do so. He added that whenever new developments occur, the other parties are informed of this. He noted that this is done constantly.

With regard to the issue of al-'Aqabah, Dr. al-Majali said that the Jordanian Government is about to sign a deal in this regard with Lloyds Register. He noted that there is a minor problem hampering this, and that this minor problem is about to be resolved.

The prime minister was seen off at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi, several cabinet ministers, the chief of Public Security, and several other officials.

Comments on Ties

JN1406180694 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali left Amman for Washington today to join His Majesty King Husayn on his U.S. visit, during which he will meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton. Dr. al-Majali was seen off by Deputy Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi and several cabinet ministers.

On His Majesty King Husayn's Washington visit, Dr. al-Majali spoke to [Salim 'Ali Dhiyab], our correspondent for political affairs:

[Begin recording] [Al-Majali] Undoubtedly, there must be constant reconsideration of Jordanian-U.S. ties to further promote and strengthen them in the interest of the American and Jordanian peoples. The summit between his majesty the king and President Clinton constitutes a peak in these ties, which we know to be special. This summit will remove any of the difficulties that might have emerged along the path of these good ties, which continue to be promoted. [passage omitted]

[Dhiyab] Dr. al-Majali: With regard to inter-Arab coordination, I do not want to ask you whether you are satisfied with it. But, how strong is it at present?

[Al-Majali] As a matter of fact, the word coordination continues to be misunderstood. Coordination is not seriously observed, as we wish. We understand coordination to mean that each party is properly and unambiguously informed of the position of the other party. If the two parties agree on certain issues, that would be fine and great. But if the two parties disagree, this should not mean that there is a dispute. For each party must respect the other's view. This is how coordination should be viewed. It is regrettable that inter-Arab coordination has not reached the desired level.

[Dhiyab] But, in practical terms, is there currently coordination among the three Arab sides?

[Al-Majali] Of course. Coordination has remained intact. Coordination has remained an ongoing process. Whenever there is an opportunity, coordination takes place. Nonetheless, people do not meet all the time. Whenever there are new developments, the other parties are informed of them, and consequently these developments are discussed. This is what always takes place. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Al-Majali on King's U.S. Visit, Arab Ties

JN1506102794 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic
15 June 94 p 3

[Interview with Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali by Shakir al-Jawhari in Amman on 13 June; "published in AL-ASWAQ in coordination with al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ newspaper"]

[Text] [al-Jawhari] Mr. Prime Minister, you will leave for Washington tomorrow [14 June] to join his majesty the king on his visit to the United States. Would you brief us on the agenda of your talks in the American capital?

[Al-Majali] We have a joint Jordanian-U.S. committee to discuss all issues related to bilateral relations. This committee always meets at this time in the presence of his majesty the king in Washington to strengthen relations and resolve any pending issues between Jordan and the United States.

[Al-Jawhari] Are there currently any pending issues, except the issue of al-'Aqabah Port?

[Al-Majali] The main topic on the agenda now is the entire Middle East file. Also, there are the issues related to Jordanian economy, support, and debts.

[Al-Jawhari] What is the size of the Jordanian debts to the United States?

[Al-Majali] Jordan's indebtedness to the United States is estimated at a large sum of money. I do not know the exact figure, but the debts are not less than 1,000 million dollars.

[Al-Jawhari] What about U.S. aid to Jordan?

[Al-Majali] We must review this issue as well as economic support for Jordan, particularly since we are passing through a delicate economic stage. There should be a remedy for this.

[Al-Jawhari] It was announced that his majesty the king discussed this issue during his previous visit to Washington?

[Al-Majali] Measures were taken at that time, however, we seek further measures to strengthen this cooperation.

[Al-Jawhari] Do you expect the recent agreements on the sub-agendas with Israel to improve the objective circumstances that would help the U.S. Administration make a decision to resume aid to Jordan?

[Al-Majali] Of course, we hope so. This is what should be done. As you know, America is a major sponsor of the peace process. Therefore, we must discuss all aspects of this issue. It is known that the circumstances that follow the peace process will be more serious and more delicate than the circumstances that follow wars because people seek a better life. How can we achieve a better life if we do not have a strong and progressive economy.

[Al-Jawhari] Will you present specific economic requests to the U.S. Administration?

[Al-Majali] The economic issue is as large as the sea. We will present all issues that could be discussed. We, of course, have giant projects that need to be tackled. We also have other issues related to security forces that need continuous U.S. support because protecting security is not less important than protecting the homeland.

[Al-Jawhari] The joint statement which was issued recently following the meeting between the Jordanian and Israeli delegations in Washington noted briefly the canal project linking the Red Sea to the Dead Sea.

[Al-Majali] It is still a dream. All these issues are part of the peace scene. However, a long time is needed to assess the feasibility and returns of such an accomplishment.

[Al-Jawhari] Are you Mr. Prime Minister optimistic that peace would achieve economic prosperity in Jordan?

[Al-Majali] All my life I have been optimistic. There can be no peace in a region where there is a big disparity in people's incomes. There can be no peace between a country where the average income of an individual is \$15,000 a year, as the case is in Israel, and the Arab countries, which are interested in peace and where the income of an individual is \$2,000 a year.

Peace cannot be achieved when there is this big difference in the individual's rate of income. There must be a change.

[Al-Jawhari] Is it correct that the U.S. Administration proposed to Jordan the convening of a public tripartite summit between his majesty the king, Israeli Prime

Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington, and that Jordan has rejected this at the present stage?

[Al-Majali] I have no information about such proposal. I have not heard of it.

[Al-Jawhari] There has been no Jordanian reaction to the Israeli reports that his majesty the king met secretly with Rabin in London?

[Al-Majali] We do not have to issue a denial each time Israel sends out a test balloon.

[Al-Jawhari] There are reports that his majesty the king telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad before he left for Washington. How true are these reports?

[Al-Majali] I do not have information on this, and his majesty did not inform me of such a contact, but it is known that his majesty is in continuous contact with His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad and their relations are very warm. Our strategy and theirs are in full accord. Our dream is that our relations will be strong, advanced, and continue to move forward.

[Al-Jawhari] Your Excellency, how do you view the possibility of containing the current situation between the two countries?

[Al-Majali] The current situation may be the result of influence of a third party, an individual or a state, that does not like Jordanian-Syrian relations to be so good, so it tries to make problems here and there. Sometimes there is inaccurate reading of a certain subject. For our part, I would like to emphasize that we believe in a comprehensive solution. We do not at all believe in separate actions. We believe in coordination, but we and all others admit that the pace of negotiations is different on different tracks because every track has its own problems. This is something that the four concerned parties, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and the Palestinians admit.

[Al-Jawhari] Does the difference in positions between Jordan and the Gulf states on the Yemeni crisis obstruct the hoped-for Jordanian-Gulf meeting?

[Al-Majali] I hope this will not at all happen. Regarding Yemen, we believe in unity, we have full faith in any unity, and we fear secession and division, not only in Yemen but in every Arab country, and every Arab country could suffer what Yemen is currently suffering. We believe in unity and we support any unity. We are not with one party against another, and this is clear. As for our terms in the press about the constitutional legitimacy that should be respected, it is because elections were held freely and honestly. These elections led to a parliament which elected a Presidential Council and a chairman for this council. We cannot abandon unity, and we believe in unity, but at the same time we do not approve fighting regardless of its causes.

[Al-Jawhari] Is Jordan currently making any efforts to solve the Yemeni crisis?

[Al-Majali] We are always ready to make efforts to close Arab ranks. I spoke more than once about the need to admit that there are Arab differences, and I propose solving them in the same manner economic issues are solved. I propose scheduling resolution of these differences within 10 years, and to suspend discussing them during the first three years, and then we open the files one after another. As for now, let's forget all differences for three years because we are passing through very delicate circumstances within the framework of the world order, regional order, and the proposed Middle East market. If we do not have a common position on these issues, we will all be destroyed by them.

[Al-Jawhari] Have you presented your idea about scheduling differences to the Arab countries?

[Al-Majali] I did not present it officially, but I am presenting it openly, and I thank the press for propagating it. I think the only possible solution is through admitting that there are problems between Arab countries, and then to decide to solve them within 10 years, with the first three years being a grace period in which we do not discuss these differences.

[Al-Jawhari] Is there any other way?

[Al-Majali] If we open the files of differences now we may clash. We should postpone discussing these differences, hoping to find points on which we agree and work on their basis, and leave the points of disagreement for discussion at the appropriate time.

Weekly Urges Action Against U.S. Exercises

JN1406094894 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 13 Jun 94 p 2

[Report by Ahmad al-Yamani]

[Text] Al-'Aqabah—While preparations were under way to celebrate the anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt, led by al-Sharif Husayn I of Mecca, a large number of U.S. rapid intervention forces of aggression were present in the port city of al-'Aqabah and the al-Jafr area for their usual annual exercises and training on fighting us in the desert, sea, and air.

These forces had earlier participated in the 30-state aggression against Iraq and attacked our trucks and oil tankers, burning them and killing their occupants—our sons—while driving along the road in Jordan.

Allowing the U.S. forces of aggression to pursue training on fighting us or resting and recreating in Jordan requires all the national forces and their representatives in the House of Representatives to firmly prevent this provocation and stop these exercises, which are due to last one month.

Daily on 'Deteriorating' Ties With Syria

*JN1406164194 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
13 Jun 94 pp 1, 5*

[Text] Within a few days, the priorities of Jordan's policies have turned upside down. The Jordanian-Israeli track of the negotiations has moved quickly in both the political and economic directions and Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation, and Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, have voiced their full satisfaction with achievements made during the first hours of the negotiations. Throughout last week, the Israeli and international media were preoccupied with disseminating reports that high-level Jordanian-Israeli meetings took place in London prior to the Washington negotiations and cleared the way for rapid progress and movement of the talks to al-Aqabah and Elat. As a result, Jordanian-Syrian relations were strained after they were prepared only two weeks ago to reach a high level of coordination and after the Husayn-al-Asad summit decided in Damascus last month to revive the joint Syrian-Jordanian committee that was suspended for a long time due to the two countries' differences over the Gulf war.

For the first time in three years, the Jordanian and Syrian press exchanged polemics in public. The Syrian newspaper TISHRIN commented on an article published in the Jordanian newspaper AL-RA'Y calling for the revival of the Jordanian-Israeli track of negotiations without waiting for the other Arab parties.

The Syrian press also implicitly replied to statements that the London-based AL-HAYAT newspaper attributed to the Jordanian prime minister, who quickly denied these statements, which included Jordan's reservation on a Syrian proposal for unity between the two countries.

The major phenomenon of the deteriorating Jordanian-Syrian relations is Syria's decision to cancel the visit, which Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi was to pay to Amman at the head of a high-level political and economic delegation, including Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

The Syrians explained that Jordan, which is currently holding economic negotiations with Israel and the United States within the framework of the tripartite development committee, may turn into a bridge for

normalizing relations between Syria and Israel when it concludes economic agreements with Syria. Moreover, any dealing with Israel will prevent integration with Syria, especially since its negotiations with Israel have not yet resulted in peace.

Therefore, Jordan's relations, which are deteriorating with Saudi Arabia and most Gulf states, which are weakening with Iraq, and which are fluctuating with the PLO, have also deteriorated with Syria and Lebanon due to Jordan's openness toward Israel.

'Source': Amman's Stance 'Identical' to Syria's

*PM1506075894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
14 Jun 94 p1*

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat: "Jordan Considers Its Position 'Identical' to the Syrian Position"]

[Text] Amman—A reliable Jordanian source said yesterday that the forthcoming Jordanian-Israeli negotiations on Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Jordanian territory before entering into "normalization agreements" are identical with the Syrian position which calls on Israel "to withdraw fully in return for full peace."

The source told AL-HAYAH that Jordan's demands for the return of its occupied territory and for the definition and demarcation of its international borders are "equal to the Syrian call for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan in return for peace with Israel." The source noted that Damascus "called for Israeli withdrawal from the Golan in return for peace, not withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories including the Jordanian, Palestinian, and Lebanese territories." He added that a definition and demarcation of the Jordanian borders "would help in the demarcation of the border of the future Palestinian state...east of the West Bank."

The informed source stressed that "when the question of the Palestinian Golan was mentioned, Jordan's aim in talking about it was to support the Syrian position that that territory is Syrian...certainly not Israeli."

Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali had said at a closed session of the House of Representatives last week that a dispute over the ownership of al-Himmah triangle known as the "Palestinian Golan" was one of the most important obstacles standing in the way of a draft agreement with Israel on the Syrian Golan Heights.

Prosecutor Denies Reports of Lockerbie Confession

NC1406151394 Paris AFP in English 1421 GMT
14 Jun 94

[Text] Beirut, June 14 (AFP)—Lebanon on Tuesday dismissed a claim attributed to a Palestinian activist that he had placed the bomb which exploded on a US airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988.

Yusuf Sha'ban "never said that he had placed the bomb in the Pan Am plane" that killed 270 people, state prosecutor Munif 'Uwaydat told AFP.

"But he said that under torture he was ready to confess to anything, even the Lockerbie bombing, if asked to," 'Uwaydat said, noting Sha'ban's comments were not logged in court records because they were not connected to his trial.

The state prosecutor charged that statements attributed to Sha'ban on Monday were "deformed on purpose to embarrass (Lebanese) justice," and he ruled out any investigation into the claim.

Sha'ban, according to the state-run news agency ANI, told a court here that he was responsible for bombing the plane.

The 29-year-old member of Abu-Nidal's hardline Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) was being heard in the murder trial of Jordanian diplomat Na'ib 'Umran al-Ma'ayitah who was shot dead outside his Beirut home in January.

Sha'ban faces a possible death penalty.

The United States said it had no evidence to corroborate Sha'ban's claim and reiterated its demand for the extradition of two Libyans who have been indicted in both Britain and the United States for the attack.

Barbara Bodine, the State Department coordinator on counter-terrorism, said that Sha'ban "was not a suspect."

"We feel very strong evidence against the two indicted Libyans, but we are serious in following up this lead to see if there is any veracity in it at all," Bodine said.

London and Washington have for three years been trying to force court appearances of 'Abd-Basit al-Mijrahi and Al-Amin Khalifah Fahimah, who are charged in the bombing.

Britain also renewed its demand that the two Libyans be brought before a Scottish or a US court to answer the charges.

Al-Mijrahi and Fahimah's Libyan lawyer, meanwhile, sent a letter to the Lebanese judicial authorities urging them to further interrogate Sha'ban on the Lockerbie bombing.

Ibrahim Legwell asked that lawyers defending the Libyan suspects be allowed to take part in any investigation, according to a copy of the letter received by AFP in Tripoli.

Libya has been under UN sanctions since April 1992 because of its refusal to hand over the two suspects. The sanctions cut international air links and arms sales, and limited diplomatic ties with Libya.

Fadlallah Fears Palestinian-Israeli Collusion

NC1406122694 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 9 Jun 94 p 4

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah believes that the peace settlement in the region is not moving quickly.

'Allamah Fadallah, in his answer to questions during a lesson on the Koran, said: "This stage revolves round the Lebanese-Syrian-Israeli negotiations. The Syrian-Israeli negotiations revolve round two contrary demands because Israel wants to normalize relations first, then establish diplomatic relations and security, and then withdraw in stages over eight years. On the other hand, Syria wants withdrawal first, then the establishment of diplomatic relations. It wants normalization to be left up to circumstances.

Fadlallah believes that the objective of Israeli attacks on Lebanon is to put pressure on the Syrian-Lebanese stand and the mujahidin, and to create new issues over which negotiations can take place to delay the basic negotiating issues. This is especially true since Israel is monitoring Palestinian autonomy and working on finalizing the autonomy negotiations over the West Bank. This prevents it from moving in two directions. Therefore, we believe that Israel wants to play upon the time factor—perhaps wait for some changes from one party, or some pressures from another party. It seems that the United States still falls in line with Israeli policy. We believe, therefore, that settlement will not take place very quickly.

Answering a question, Fadlallah said: We do not trust the PLO and we have in our possession some documents on relations between the PLO and Israel since 1982. We know that the PLO used to make things easy for many European intelligence agencies and give them opportunities. They used to offer them a great deal of information about the Islamists in Lebanon and about many of those groups opposing Western policies in the region. Therefore, we fear the Israeli-Palestinian agreement in the region. We fear that the Palestinian officials will cooperate and coordinate with Israeli intelligence to strike the Islamic and liberation movements in the region. We also fear that the autonomy agreement will constitute a bridge for the Israelis to cross into Arab economy using the Palestinian element which could be a cover behind which the Israeli element hides.

As regards Israeli threats, 'Allamah Fadlallah believes that "there are no Israeli, American, or Arab circumstances that provide Israel with the opportunity to do what it did last year or to occupy new Lebanese territory. The whole issue is that Israel is working on planning qualitative strikes, either security or military, every now and then because it fears the reaction of the Islamic Resistance."

Al-Hariri: Fundamentalists 'Have No Future' in Country

BR1406134494 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian
11 Jun 94 p 18

[Interview with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri by Dino Frescobaldi in Beirut; date not given: "Beirut: Prime Minister Accuses Italy: 'Ambassador Causing Us Trouble'"]

[Excerpt] Beirut—[passage omitted] [Frescobaldi] What happened to all the old militiamen who belonged to and were obedient to the warlords?

[Al-Hariri] They have been integrated into the system. Their leaders have handed over their weapons. Now there is a single army of 50,000 men, partly volunteers and partly draftees, within which the representatives of those armed groupings account for no more than 10 percent, which is answerable to a single defense minister and which is obedient to the Council of Ministers and the national Parliament.

[Frescobaldi] What role do you think a new Lebanon can perform in the region?

[Al-Hariri] First, a role as a catalyst in finance, trade, and the promotion of light industry, which are its traditional tasks. But also a role in stimulating culture and advancing democracy on the basis of its own experiences. I can cite evidence of this. In recent days we held the funerals of the victims of the latest bombardments—outright massacres. There were tens of thousands of people there, but not a single shot was fired. Everything went calmly. This means that people no longer want anything more to do with trouble, and that they respect the power of the state, the police, and the Army.

[Frescobaldi] In this situation a threat could nevertheless stem from Islamic fundamentalism.

[Al-Hariri] I will answer you with a question: In a country where tourism is so important to everyone—as are finance, culture, and openness to the world, for that matter—in a multi-confessional country comprising both Christians and Muslims, what kind of role do you think the fundamentalists could have? Merely a trouble-making role. The fact is that the fundamentalists have no future in Lebanon, even if they may receive help from here and there. The majority of Lebanese have now converted to moderation.

[Frescobaldi] We must not forget that this is taking place against the background of an overall peace process. How optimistic are you in this regard?

[Al-Hariri] Let me tell you that the Arabs have decided to make peace and are ready in this regard. Now it is up to Israel to decide. It must decide what its role is to be in the region. If the Israelis want to be dominators, it means that they will have many problems. If, however, they want to be a country that lives in peace with its neighbors, then I think peace is very near. And with regard to the 12 percent of our territory that is occupied, it must be returned to us to the very last inch.

[Frescobaldi] So can we talk in terms of a miracle in connection with Lebanon?

[Al-Hariri] Why not? We are one of the few countries whose currency is not only stable but is also growing stronger, albeit not by much. Where investments are flowing in from all over the Arab world, where the private sector is forging ahead. As for the Europeans, they come here to work; to sign contracts; to sell supplies, especially for construction; and to bring know-how.

[Frescobaldi] What does Italy do?

[Al-Hariri] It too is taking part. It has concluded a good contract in the electrical field. As for your ambassador, he is causing us... [Al-Hariri ends]

[Frescobaldi] The interview ended here because al-Hariri made me switch off the tape recorder. But he made me understand that the Lebanese Government would not be displeased if the ambassador were to be replaced.

Armenian Foreign Minister Meets Officials, Departs

NC1406172394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1530 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan continued his meetings with political officials. He met with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri; their talks dealt with bilateral relations.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, who accompanied his Armenian counterpart to the Chamber of Deputies, said the decision to open a Lebanese embassy in Armenia was adopted by the government several months ago. He added that the final decision to name a Lebanese ambassador to Armenia is awaiting several administrative and fiscal arrangements.

Minister Papazyan left Beirut for Armenia at 1830 today. Before leaving Beirut Airport, he said that his visit was very good and that ties between the two countries will have legal [word indistinct]. He said discussions dealt with the possibility of operating a direct air route between Lebanon and Armenia.

Al-Asad Receives Lebanese President al-Hirawi

JN1406181094 Damascus Syrian Arab Television
Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi at al-Rawdah Palace at 1130 today. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam attended the meeting, which was followed by a closed meeting between the two presidents. Later, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' joined the meeting.

Talks dealt with several issues pertaining to developments in the region and the Arab arena. They also reviewed the peace process and the stage it has reached.

The two sides stressed the importance of continuing cooperation and coordination and working to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the agreed upon bases of the peace process and the resolutions of the international legitimacy. They also discussed matters of interest to Syria and Lebanon.

The meetings were interrupted by a working luncheon banquet attended by 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Faruq al-Shar', along with the two presidents.

Al-Shar' Briefs Cabinet on Developments

JN1406131494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a meeting at 1100 today under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and reviewed the work of the services and economic committees.

During the session, the Council of Ministers was briefed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on current developments in both the Arab and international arenas. The foreign minister clarified the nature and aims of the pressures being put on Syria in order to harm its pan-Arab and national decision, stressing that Syria firmly adheres to its positions and trends to achieve a just and comprehensive peace and that it will not relinquish any national or pan-Arab rights.

In this context, the foreign minister also explained that the aim of the Israelis is to force the peace process from its course and its true goals and to push it onto a thorny and deadlocked road. He also asserted that the continued Israeli intransigence is aimed at weakening current international efforts to push the peace process forward, ignoring the resolutions of international legitimacy, and blocking the peace process.

The foreign minister then reviewed the results of the meetings that were held in Damascus to promote Syria's cooperation with the Russian Federation, the PRC, and India. He also touched on the positive results of the meeting of the nonaligned foreign ministers in Cairo, stressing the importance of the movement's role in

protecting the interests of the nonaligned countries in the absence of democratic relations in the international arena.

The Council of Ministers also discussed the draft law on implementing a trade agreement with the Vietnamese Government, as well as the draft law on amending some articles of the mail and parcels law No. 470 of 1957. It also studied issues on its agenda, as well as subjects under discussion, and made appropriate decisions.

U.S. Urged To Be 'Full Partner' in Peace Process

JN1406142494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Yitzhaq Rabin has admitted that there is a big gap between the Syrian and Israeli stands vis-a-vis peace in the Middle East. Meanwhile, he reiterated that Syria will be committing a big mistake if it believes that the United States will exert any pressure on Israel. Rabin wanted to say that Israeli intransigence will continue and that his government will not make any change in its policy rejecting the Security Council resolutions.

The Israeli stands, which are hostile to the peace process and to the spirit and bases of the Madrid conference, have not surprised Syria because Israel was established on a policy of aggression, usurpation, and expansion. Syria, however, participated in the peace process and responded to the U.S. initiative, proceeding from definite bases—namely, exchanging land for peace, implementing the Security Council resolutions, and achieving a just and comprehensive settlement on all fronts of conflict.

Syria has worked over the past two and a half years to render the Washington talks a success, saved the peace process more than once from intentional Israeli destruction, and facilitated the task of U.S. envoys in the region. Since the United States has reiterated—through President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher—its commitment to go ahead in the peace process in accordance with its bases, Syria has the right to ask the United States keep its promise and play the fair role of full partner. Syria understands that fairness achieves rights and entrenches justice. Syria does not, at all, call on the United States to become biased toward Syria; it wants the United States to be biased toward the Security Council resolutions and the principles of the international laws that ban occupation of land by force, any change in the land's cultural, historical, and demographic features, and the law of jungle.

In view of Israel's history, which is full of wars, aggressions, and massacres; in light of the clear maneuvers and procrastination it showed in Washington; and given its rejection of the requirements of the peace process—particularly full withdrawal from the occupied territory—Syria will continue to ask the United States to

fulfill its guarantees and its commitment to play a fair role. Syria believes there is no way to achieve peace in the Middle East without effective American intervention in the interest of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

All the world hopes will not convince Israel to make one single step toward achieving peace if this step is not accompanied by the appropriate pressure. The current situation should prompt the entire international community to make an urgent move to end the present stalemate in the Washington talks.

Israel will commit a grave mistake if it believes that Syria will, ultimately, succumb to its blackmailing, twisted methods, partial settlements and relinquish one single inch of the Golan.

The Golan has been Syrian land from the beginning of history, and Syria will not relinquish one single inch of its land and will not bargain over its sovereignty. It neither relinquishes Arab rights or bargains over them. If peace is not fair or comprehensive, and if it does not end Israeli occupation of all occupied territory it will remain a temporary deal that will be destroyed by acceleration of events.

AL-BA'TH Views Consultation Talks With Lebanon

JN1506064594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 15 Jun 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, AL-BA'TH talks about Israel's attempts to harm the distinguished Syrian-Lebanese relations with the aim of dealing separately with each country within the framework of its attempts to impose its hegemony on the region and its conditions that serve the Israeli greed and interests.

AL-BA'TH says Israel is still wagering on the internal Lebanese situation. The series of explosions—the latest of which took place at Sayyidat al-Najat Church—, the daily aggressions against southern Lebanon and al-Biqā', and the many enticements offered to Lebanon are aimed to sever the bonds between two twin states.

AL-BA'TH says Israel concentrates on Lebanon, which had been viewed as the weakest part of the Arab body, as part of its policy of secret deals and partial solutions.

AL-BA'TH emphasizes that Lebanon, which astonished the world with its national resistance of the Zionist occupation, has practiced its legitimate right to defend and liberate its land. Hence, it is no longer the weakest part. Furthermore, Lebanon plays an important role in the peace process in coordination with Syria, and emphasizes that it will not relinquish any of its rights.

Concluding its comment, AL-BA'TH says the continuous Syrian-Lebanese consultations consolidate fraternal bonds between the two sisterly states and the one people, and strengthen the Syrian and Lebanese negotiators and enable them to confront all Israeli methods. This was emphasized by Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi during their summit yesterday when they reiterated adherence to a just and comprehensive solution.

India

Rao: Nation To Keep Nuclear Options 'Open'

BK1106161894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] The two-day AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] session has concluded with a call to find technology which can produce quality goods in the small-scale sector. Addressing the concluding session this evening in New Delhi, the party president, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, said this is necessary for adopting Gandhian philosophy in the present context and to overcome the problem of social costs associated with this industry. He called upon the developed countries to join hands with developing nations in this campaign and said such programs should be innovative and time bound.

Making a dig at the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] for its demand that India should go nuclear, Mr. Rao reiterated that the country would keep its options open. The decision will be based on disarmament trends in the world. We cannot play with weapons of mass destruction, he observed. Mr. Rao said there can be no question of one upmanship in this matter. He charged some political parties with misleading the people over the issue. Mr. Narasimha Rao underlined the need for strengthening the party's setup at the village level in a time bound manner. The Congress-I president said that the practice of giving party tickets to the relatives of leaders should be stopped as it has created resentment among the rank and file.

BJP Leader: Country 'Should Exercise' Nuclear Option

BK1006100794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 Jun 94

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K. Advani, says India should exercise the nuclear option for national security and to prevent any attempt of intimidation of neighbors and superpowers. Addressing the three-day national council meeting of the party in Wadodara this morning, he warned of dangers to the country arising out of, what he termed, the U.S. tilt toward Pakistan. Mr. Advani also alleged that the policies of the Narasimha Rao government will affect both the economic and security interest of the nation. The BJP president said behind the nonproliferation initiative of the United States is the assumption that India must subcontract its national security to Washington. He said western influences, particularly American interests, shape the debate on nuclear arms and missile system. Mr. Advani said his party is opposed to the globalization policies of the government. He called for a reversal of the priorities and said that foreign trade and investment should only be useful supplements to national effort.

More than 300 delegates are attending the national council session which began this morning. Prominent

leaders attending the meeting include Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee and Mr. Murli Manohar Joshi.

Minister Supports China's Entry Into GATT

BK1506100894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] India will support China's reentry into the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, GATT, as this will ensure enhanced growth in trade. The commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherji, said this while addressing the India-China Joint Group meeting on economic relations, trade, and science and technology in New Delhi today. Mr. Mukherji said New Delhi shares the Chinese view that improvement in trade position should benefit the economy of other Asian countries.

Article Views Aftermath of Rao's U.S. Visit

BK1506014594 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 7 Jun 94 p 9

[Article by Nikhil Chakraborty]

[Text] What are the problems being faced by Narasimha Rao at home after his visit to the United States? This is the question being raised today. The prime minister's visit to the United States is a matter of honor to the ruling and the opposition parties.

The opposition parties had raised questions in the parliament with the apprehensions that the Narasimha Rao government would probably succumb to the American pressure on the stalemate on signing Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, human rights, and the Kashmir issue. Their voices in the parliament convinced the prime minister that he should clearly apprise the Clinton administration of the Indian stance on these issues and should return home without succumbing to any pressure. Besides, being a prime minister with a slight majority in the parliament, Narasimha Rao was in a suicidal situation, if he would bow down to any such pressures. It is a matter of gratification that Narasimha Rao was firm on very important issues and clarified India's points in his address at the American Congress.

Now nobody can find fault with the prime minister and say that he failed in putting forward national issues. Another significant feature is that the prime minister made his position amply clear. Does this mean that the differences with the United States have been completely overcome? No. We have presented our contradicting views in a slightly different manner at the talks held with the U.S. President. In other words, we have made it clear that we will be by and large friendly even though differences of opinion persist.

At the Indo-U.S. summit-level talks, differences existed, especially on Pakistan and the nuclear weapons issue. President Clinton's statement confirmed that he

endorses Islamabad's views and Benazir Bhutto's statements that Pakistan does not supply arms to the extremists to help the secessionist forces in Kashmir. At the same time, the United States did not accept Pakistan's contention that India does not have any right in Kashmir, as the extremists have an upper hand there. It has supported the view that Pakistan and India should hold bilateral talks under the Simla agreement. This indicates the United States position that it wants to support neither Pakistan nor India in this matter.

Besides saying that Kashmir does not belong to India, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel also spoke about human rights abuses in Kashmir. Islamabad has also been voicing the same concern. However, now the issue of human rights abuses rears its head in Washington infrequently. Washington does not want to have too much discussion with India on the human rights issue. Now, the United States has retraced its steps from criticizing India on the human rights issue. This shift in stance was noticed earlier at the UN Human Rights Commission conference in Geneva. There, the U.S. representative did not support Pakistan's resolution against India, and he kept quiet. Thus, the United States' behavior of changing its stance whimsically on the issue of human rights abuses is not a surprising thing nor something new. Earlier, there was strong criticism against the Chinese Government for cracking down on innocent students at Tiananmen Square in 1989. However, when it was the question of commercial cooperation, the United States did not hesitate to grant Most Favored Nation status to China.

On the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] issue, the gap between New Delhi and Washington has not been bridged. This issue was not included at the Washington talks as India has been saying that the NPT was discriminatory. It clearly shows that both countries have different perceptions on this issue. However, the United States wants to resolve the nuclear nonproliferation issue through talks at the regional level. This implies the United States' position that Pakistan and India can hold talks on the issue. However, India is of the view that this issue should be discussed nor resolved at global level. In other words, India's stand is that nuclear nonproliferation cannot be achieved by the reduction of nuclear weapons by some countries through regional-level or bilateral talks.

Therefore, although differences persist between them, the United States and India have come to the conclusion that the issue should be resolved through continuous bilateral talks. Nuclear nonproliferation is the most significant element of the Clinton administration's foreign policy. However, the behavior and activities of the corporate bodies in the United States have a say in the final decision of the Clinton administration.

That is why the United States had to play a dubious role and devise its policies in China's matter. As far as India is concerned, in the joint statement issued by President

Clinton and Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, both countries expressed their willingness to strike a "new partnership". This term has not been used with any member of the Atlantic family. [sentence as published] It can be construed that the interest evinced by American megacompanies to grab India's colossal markets and encourage investment there is the cause for issuing this term.

Keeping this in mind, Prime Minister Narasimha Rao called on the directors of megacompanies in New York, Houston, and Washington during his visit. This approach has never been used by any other prime minister of India. These meetings were arranged as a prelude to the meetings in coming years, maybe within a few months.

American companies are making efforts to grab the opportunities available in India before the companies from the European Community or Japan take the initiative and seize the markets.

Following the mega American companies, nonresident Indians are showing keen interest to invest in their motherland in this regard.

After great calculations, Indian authorities speculate that the nonresident Indians will also invest in a big way, if American companies start investing in Indian markets. That is why, in various states, local affinity is getting stronger. The tendency to invest according to the origin of the investors such as Bengalis, Gujarathis, Punjabis, and Maharashtrians, is becoming conspicuous now.

With a view to bring American capital to the country, the prime minister has extended an invitation to the nonresident Indians to invest in India. This has been viewed as an act of gambling. Any outside intervention is a matter of great anxiety to the Indians. When the gigantic American companies like Ford, General Motors, or Exxon establish their sway in India and if, out of a sheer sense of patriotism, there is a call for sponsoring only indigenous goods in the country, it cannot be easily rejected. Because, when economic forces join political forces to gain influence and if politicians back it, it will be a challenge to the honor of the country. Under these circumstances, corruption at higher levels will assume alarming proportions and will bury the system of democracy itself.

Parliament Approves Bill To Punish Hijackers

BK1506043694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Parliament has approved two bills providing for deterrent punishment to hijackers. The Lok Sabha adopted the bills yesterday which were approved by the Rajya Sabha earlier. The civil aviation minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, said the new legislation provides for the setting up of designated courts for speedy trial of hijacking and other related offences. Bail will not be granted without hearing the prosecution. Another salient

feature is that the burden of proof will be that of the accused in cases where arms and explosives used for hijacking are recovered. The center can now delegate the investigative powers to any of its agencies instead of the local police.

The Lok Sabha has also passed the Human Organs Transplantation Bill seeking to regulate removal and transplantation of human organs. Already passed by the Rajya Sabha, the bill received support from all sections of the house and was adopted with certain official amendments in line with some of the recommendations of the select committee of the house. Replying to the debate, the deputy minister for health, Mr. Pawan Singh Ghatwal, said with the passage of the bill other states would follow suit to enact their own laws. He said such provisions are now available in the states of Maharashtra, Goa, and Himachal Pradesh. Participating in the discussion, members welcomed the measure but cautioned the government to ensure that the provisions of the bill should not be misused by unscrupulous elements for illegal trading in human organs.

The house also passed the New Delhi Municipal Council Bill yesterday along with some amendments. The proposed council will have 11 members besides a chairperson. The council includes three MLAs [Members of Legislative Assembly] and the MP representing the New Delhi area.

Later, the Lok Sabha was adjourned sine die. The house sat late last night to pass six bills. The special session which was summoned to consider the electoral reform bills ended ahead of schedule as the government did not introduce the Constitution Amendment Bill regarding electoral reforms.

Cabinet Approves International Convention on Hostages

BK1506044594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] The union cabinet has cleared a proposal for restructuring the subordinate engineering service of the All India Radio and Doordarshan [Television]. Our correspondent reports two new grades have been created for the subordinate personnel. The number of posts at the higher level have been increased accordingly.

The cabinet has also approved India's accession to the international convention against taking of hostages. At a meeting yesterday, it approved a proposal to amend the Indian Penal Code to give effect to the provisions of the convention.

Iran

Velayati Comments on Visit to Germany

NC1506095394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] The Iranian-German joint economic commission will meet in Germany next fall. This was stated yesterday

by Foreign Minister Velayati who is in Germany. Velayati also described his two-day talks with the German chancellor and other high-ranking German officials as useful and constructive. Velayati, who was speaking during an interview with the Central News Unit correspondent in Bonn last night, referred to the noteworthy developments in Tehran-Bonn relations during recent years and said: These relations can be used as a good example for other European countries concerning bilateral relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Velayati said that main points of his discussions with German officials during this visit included the formation of a joint economic commission next fall, the continuation of cooperation in international forums, Germany's more active participation in Iran's Second [Five-Year] Economic Plan, the formation of the two countries' cultural assembly, and parliamentary cooperation between Tehran and Bonn.

The foreign minister said that the regular contacts between the Iranian and German heads of state over the past two years have constituted an important element in advancing the two countries' relations.

Commenting on the impact of Iranian-German relations on global and regional developments, Velayati said: [Begin Velayati recording via telephone] Iranian-German cooperation has gone beyond bilateral relations and has assumed regional and international dimensions. As the current head of the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization], and as current head of united Europe, Germany will hold talks in the future on cooperation between these two regional bodies. Europe, with its greater experience and vast dimensions of cooperation, and Iran—especially after the expansion of ECO, which is a young organization—can use Europe's experiences, and cooperation between the two organizations will be extremely positive and constructive.

We have agreed to hold a joint session next fall in New York with the troika on the foreign ministerial level. The troika is actually the presidency of the European Union and consists of former, current, and future foreign ministers of countries acting as EU presidents. They participate in meetings with other countries and actually mold the European Community's foreign relations. [end recording]

Improved Ties Pledged

LD1406173694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Our country's foreign minister, who is in Germany at present, met the German foreign minister today to discuss bilateral relations and regional and international issues. We draw your attention to our correspondent's report from Bonn.

[Unidentified correspondent] Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met and conferred with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. In this meeting, which lasted for over two hours, bilateral relations in various fields, the expansion of economic ties between the two

countries, as well as regional and international issues were discussed. [passage omitted]

At the end of the meeting, the German foreign minister took part in an interview with the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran correspondent, and considered the talks as positive and constructive.

Our country's foreign minister also spoke to us at the conclusion of the meeting. Referring to the outcome of his talks, he said:

[Begin Velayati recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The meeting with his excellency Mr. Kinkel was very positive and constructive. In this long meeting we discussed and reviewed relations between Iran and Germany in various areas. One of the key topics for our discussion was our bilateral cooperation during the forthcoming term of German presidency of the European Union. It was decided that such cooperation should take a more serious aspect once Germany assumes the EU presidency. In view of the fact that after Germany, France, and then Spain take over the presidency of the EU, we seek to give a more positive tone to our talks with these three countries. In today's meeting, however, we decided to hold meetings during the forthcoming UN General Assembly in New York between the foreign ministers of the said countries and the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] member countries.

Cultural and economic cooperation between Iran and Germany will be pursued in a better and more positive way from now on. Mr. Kinkel is busy with elections right now, and we hope that the present German Government can continue and enhance its future cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the countries of our region, especially the ECO members. [end recording]

Velayati Informs Kohl German 'Spy' Pardoned

*LD1406185994 Tehran IRNA in English 1811 GMT
14 Jun 94*

[Text] Tehran, June 14, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran has pardoned German spy Helmut Szimkus, who had been arrested here in 1989.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in his meeting with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Bonn informed him of the pardon.

Szimkus had been condemned to death by a court after his trial.

German Chancellor Kohl and Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel had previously appealed for the Szimkus' release.

A diplomatic source said after the appeal, related authorities reviewed the case in light of the principled and realistic stances of the Bonn government vis-a-vis Iran, and Szimkus was eventually pardoned.

His pardon is expected to open a new chapter in Tehran-Bonn relations despite the impediments made by the U.S. and Britain.

Embassy: No IRGC Units Sent to Yemen

*LD1406192894 Tehran IRNA in English 1916 GMT
14 Jun 94*

[Text] Tehran, June 14, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy in Sanaa today categorically refuted as "false" a report by a french magazine that Iran had proposed to despatch units from the Islamic Revolution's Gurads Corps (IRGC) to Yemen.

Referring the recent 'LE POINT' allegations, the embassy said such unfounded reports and commentaries are printed in some Western papers with "quite clear objectives."

The embassy in its statement said Iran's clear stance concerning the current developments in the brotherly Republic of Yemen cannot be misportrayed through such propaganda.

The Islamic Republic of Iran supports a united Yemen, and hopes that present disputes would be settled peacefully, it said.

"National sovereignty and non-intervention in the internal affairs of Yemen should be respected in any solution," the statement said.

President, Kenya's Attorney General Discuss Ties

*LD1506111194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT
15 Jun 94*

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Kenyan Attorney General Amos Wako this morning. After giving Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani a written message from the Kenyan president, the Kenyan attorney general described the outcome of his meetings with our country's judicial officials as very fruitful.

Thanking Iran for its efforts in the fight against narcotics and for observing human rights standards, he called for more cooperation and consultation regarding the sharing of Iran's invaluable experience with his country.

Thanking Iran for its foreign policy on establishing and expanding ties with the Third World, especially African countries, he described as very important and effective the role of our country's officials in global developments. He said: Since the victory of the Islamic revolution, as a big regional and Islamic power, Iran has played an active role in defending the rights of the innocent and the deprived throughout the world. He called for the expansion of mutual ties in all fields.

According to a Central News Unit report, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed regret that monopolistic countries pursue their hegemonistic policy in the world by resorting to holy concepts. He said: The cruelty and harshness of those powers are known throughout history, and there is strong evidence of their disregard for human

rights. They try to accuse developing countries and countries seeking independence of human rights violations.

He said: Using their capabilities, since they possess rich natural and human resources, Third World countries could, through cooperation—directly and without middlemen—help each other in solving their problems.

Expressing concern about the bitter events in Africa, particularly the events in Somalia, Rwanda, Angola, and Mozambique, the president called for more effort by the Organization of African Unity to end the crisis in that region.

He expressed the hope that relations between Iran and Kenya would be expanded in all fields.

Turkish Interior Minister Signs Security Protocol

NC1506092794 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT*
15 Jun 94

[Text] A protocol on security cooperation and border safety was signed yesterday by the interior ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey. On the basis of this protocol the two countries will increase their cooperation on the security of the two countries' borders, on confronting terrorism, and on fighting drug smuggling.

During the signing of this protocol, Besharati expressed satisfaction on the outcome of his discussions with Turkish officials and said that full agreement had been reached on all the topics discussed.

The Turkish interior minister referred to various Turkish officials' meetings with the Iranian delegation and stated that Besharati's visit to Turkey has solidified the two countries' friendly relations.

[Editor's note: In a similar report carried in its 0330 GMT newscast, *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian* reports: "The Turkish interior minister has stated that no element acting against the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkey will be allowed to remain on Turkish territory. The Turkish interior minister said that during his meeting with Besharati, he added that Turkish law-enforcement agents confront with sensitivity any act perpetrated against the Islamic Republic of Iran on Turkish territory."]

Oil Minister Supports Postponing OPEC Meeting

LD1406161594 *Tehran IRNA in English 1501 GMT*
14 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 14, IRNA—OPEC should postpone its September meeting in a bid to boost the oil prices, Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh said here Tuesday.

Referring to the OPEC oil ministers meeting in Vienna on Wednesday, Aqazadeh told the Persian daily ETTE-LA'AT that Iran would support every proposal which tended to help boost the prices.

He said the meeting has two important topics in its agenda, namely selection of the future secretary general of OPEC, and determination of the OPEC production ceiling.

On the former topic, he said there were two candidates from Iran and Venezuela for the post, and that from historical and qualitative points of view Iran considered it its to be selected as the next OPEC secretary general.

Elsewhere, he said since Iran and Saudi Arabia produce half of the OPEC oil output, adoption of a joint stance by the two countries would certainly help OPEC to make a firm decision.

"Experience has shown that the two countries' agreement has had great impact on strengthening the prices," he noted.

Tehran Encourages OPEC 'Understanding'

NC1506104894 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT*
15 Jun 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] The petroleum ministers of the 12 OPEC member-countries are to meet in Vienna today to decide on ways to strengthen the oil market and to determine the production ceiling for the next three months. Also on the OPEC agenda are discussions for the election of a new OPEC secretary general, and changing the headquarters of the OPEC Secretariat.

What is gleaned from the comments by the OPEC members' ministers before the commencement of the session is that an atmosphere of tranquility and understanding exists among the OPEC members on improving the oil market; and in this encouraging atmosphere, OPEC is expected to set the production ceiling at 24.5 million barrels per day and to display its determination on OPEC's uniformity in improving oil prices.

It should be noted that during OPEC's recent session held in March this year, members set the production ceiling at 24.52 million barrels per day for 1994 in a bid to prevent a drop in oil prices and committed themselves to help the stability of the oil market by observing the set production ceilings.

Also, the drop in oil prices stopped two months ago and a relative improvement was observed in the international oil market. On the basis of figures published by oil sources, there has been a \$3-\$4 increase in the price of each barrel of oil over the past two months. Although this is encouraging, it is still a far cry from the basic OPEC price which is \$21 per barrel.

Experts believe that the major reason for increased oil demand during the past months is renewed economic growth in the industrial world and the West's storing of oil for its fall and winter fuel needs. This increase in demand by major consumers and the observance of the OPEC ceiling production and oil supply have led to an improvement in world oil prices.

Informed oil circles believe that the OPEC members that depend on their oil income as the major source of foreign exchange income, have lost billions of dollars because of the drop in oil prices during the past months. Therefore, in order to safeguard the interests of OPEC and of the members in this important international organization, it is necessary to improve oil prices and to increase them to \$21-per barrel. Now, on the eve of the 96th OPEC session, it seems that the atmosphere of understanding among members, controlling the production ceiling and the commitment of member countries to observe production ceilings will be an attainable objective.

At any rate, the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes any step by OPEC that will lead to an increase in the prices of crude oil, and in its oil policy it underlines the need for OPEC's power, understanding among members, and the safeguarding of this organization's interests.

New Mid-Level Government Appointments Made

*** 3 Appointments Announced**

94LA0175C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 27 Apr 94 p 4

[Text] By order of Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahimian, the vice regent's representative and chief of the Islamic Revolution Martyr Foundation, Javad Moqadam was appointed general manager of computer services and data processing at this foundation.

By order of Ayatollah Yazdi, chief of the judicial power, Hadi Haydarzadeh, chief of Branch 15 of the Administrative Justice Court, retained his position as deputy minister of justice and was appointed as chief of the Administrative Justice Court.

By order of Dr. Vahid Dastjerdi, chief of the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mohammad Hoseyn Dajmar was appointed general secretary of the Red Crescent Society.

*** 2 Appointments Announced**

94LA0176B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 18 May 94 p 4

[Text] By order of Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahimian, the vice regent's representative and chief of the Martyr Foundation, 'Ali Sharifi was appointed general manager of the province of Ardebil Martyr Foundation and assumed his duties.

By order of Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi-Eraqi, chief of the Islamic Propaganda Organization, Mas'ud Hadad was appointed as this organization's economic consultant.

*** SALAM's Editor in Chief Freed After Making Payment**

94LA0175B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 27 Apr 94 p 4

[Text] Tehran, 3 Farvardin [19 April] KEYHAN News Service—'Abbas 'Abdi, editor in chief of the newspaper

SALAM, who was arrested early in the month of Shahrivar [23 August-22 September 1993] and was sentenced on 1 Dey [22 December] at the revolutionary court to one year in prison and 40 lashes in suspension, was released on a bond payment of 10 million tumans.

The newspaper SALAM made the point that 'Abdi has served 10 months of his sentence and only four months remain, and that taking a 10-million-tuman bond to free him is not appropriate for the remaining time. It regarded this as a violation of judicial procedure.

During the month of Dey [22 December 1993-20 January 1994], concurrent with the issuance of the sentence punishing 'Abdi and the press discussions concerning the nature of his crime, the deputy minister of guidance for press affairs said: The charges against 'Abbas 'Abdi are not press related.

*** Dollar Selling Again at 3 Varied Exchange Rates**

94LA0177C London KEYHAN in Persian 9 Jun 94 p 3

[Text] After the statement by the Islamic Republic's Central Bank that the purchase of foreign exchange to import on the free market is entirely forbidden, once again three rates for foreign currencies have come to exist in Iran. These rates were announced by the newspaper RESALAT for Thursday 12 Khordad [2 June 1994] as follows:

1. The rate on foreign exchange sales for imports in exchange for exports:
Dollar, 2,590 rials [R]
Mark, R1,565
Pound, R3,900
2. The rate on foreign exchange sales for other transactions:
Dollar, R1,870
Mark, R1,088
Pound, R2,637
3. The rate on foreign exchange sales on the free market:
Dollar, R2,860
Mark, R1,770
Pound, R4,280

*** Unfounded Threat Used To Sell Arms to Arab Rulers**

94LA0176C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 18 May 94 p 8

[Text] Tehran, 24 Ordibehesht [14 May] KEYHAN-E HAVA'I News Service—White House officials are continuing their policy of frightening the region's leaders and talking to the region's oil-rich nations about the threat from Iran, for the purpose of selling them more American weapons.

In this same connection, Robert Pelletreau, the American assistant Secretary of State, said while visiting the

southern Persian Gulf nations: "We believe Iran intends to arm itself with modern weapons in the shortest time possible." Speaking with reporters before departing from Bahrain for Kuwait, he added: "We have consulted and exchanged views with our friends in the region concerning the threat from Iran to the Arab emirates."

Pelletreau spoke of the threat from Iran and this country's becoming equipped with advanced weaponry at a time when the Islamic Republic of Iran's military budget is insignificant compared to the budgets of many of the countries in the region, including the emirates in the south Persian Gulf.

It is worth mentioning that one of the ways Western companies, including American companies, sell chemical weapons to the Arab nations, is to claim that Iran is a threat to the security of the aforementioned countries, and that if the Arab nations of the Persian Gulf do not become equipped with advanced weaponry, they might be attacked by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In his press conference he claimed that Iran continues to threaten the oil-rich Arab nations of the Persian Gulf. America is now holding talks and negotiations with the Arabs to increase their defense and deterrent capability.

It is to be noted that Iran has repeatedly opposed American opportunism in the region and the White House goal of strengthening its domination of the Persian Gulf. Iranian officials have emphasized that establishing security depends on cooperation among the Persian Gulf nations and removing foreigners from this region.

Pakistan

Bhutto Discusses Kashmir, Pressler Law, F-16's

BK0906104994 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has reiterated that Pakistan intends to highlight the Kashmir issue at the international level, but it will keep the doors open for bilateral negotiations to resolve the issue.

In an interview with the Dubayy daily KHALEEJ TIMES, she referred to the changes in the global scenario, saying things that seemed impossible in the Middle East, South Africa, Cambodia, and Somalia have now become possible. She said Pakistan and India cannot remain passive and allow this region to be a center of tension. Referring to her efforts to find a solution to the issue, she said that by expressing its willingness to hold the foreign secretary-level talks that took place in Islamabad, Pakistan paved the way for negotiations. This demonstrates our determination to solve this problem on a bilateral basis. She said, however, that Pakistan does not want to make bilateral talks an excuse for crushing the Kashmiris. Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan has made several other proposals, such as

a reduction of forces in Jammu and Kashmir; the abrogation of barbaric legislation in the occupied valley; the release of the Hurriyat Conference leaders; and permission for human rights groups, the international mass media, and diplomats to visit Kashmir.

Answering a question, she said another extremely important element of Pakistan's foreign policy is improving its relations with the United States through meaningful talks. The prime minister said Pakistan does not want these relations to be limited to the single aspect of the nuclear issue; we want to make these relations multidimensional. Referring to the Pressler law, she said Pakistan does not have a nuclear weapon and has demonstrated a great deal of perseverance and restraint by refraining from detonating a nuclear explosion. Pakistan has decided not to exceed the existing limits unless its existence is threatened. Thus, from a legal point of view, Pakistan has not violated the Pressler law. She said this law has assumed the form of a veto that is in India's hands. Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan welcomes the Clinton administration's policy of controlling, reducing, and eliminating nuclear programs at the regional level. On the issue of the F-16 aircraft, she said Pakistan should receive these aircraft because it was a commercial deal and Pakistan has already paid for them. Pakistan should get the F-16's or the money should be refunded.

Leghari Asks Russia, U.S. To Restrain Delhi Missiles

BK1406055994 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 14 Jun 94 p 12

[Text] Rawalpindi—President Farooq Leghari said Monday that Prithvi is country-specific to Pakistan like the Pressler Amendment and even more alarming is India's missile programme.

Addressing the convocation of the National Defence College (NDC), Leghari said: "The Agni threatens a vast region, from China and south East Asia to Kazakhstan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. India's acquisition of cryogenic engines provides it a licence to acquire ICBM [Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile] capability. Other countries of the region cannot sit back complacently while India acquires a potential stranglehold over them."

He said: "It was not enough for us to be told that India will promise not to deploy Prithvis. How long does it take to actually deploy those mobile launched missiles, 12 hours, 24 hours?"

"Our region must be saved from a missile race. Unless we settle for a zero-missile regime in the region, the race will become inevitable. The US and Russia must act positively now and restrain India," he demanded.

Leghari said: "In response to our security imperatives, we also seek self-reliance and indigenisation in our country in general and defence production in particular. Import of high tech equipment from abroad is not only a

heavy drain on our economy, but also subjects us to a high degree of uncertainty."

"We have learnt that no nation can expect to be truly sovereign if it is totally dependent on others for import of arms and technology.

The President urged that Pakistan must plan its indigenisation effort with vision and follow it with the resolve to stand on its own feet as early as possible.

Paper Condemns U.S. Reaction to Prithvi Test

*BK1306143894 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu
13 Jun 94 p 10*

[Editorial: "America's Half-Hearted Reaction"]

[Text] Pakistan has described the U.S. reaction to the Indian Prithvi missile test as half-hearted and said that this action will encourage India to extend the missile race in South Asia. The United States asked Pakistan and India last year to stop the manufacture, acquisition, and testing of missiles in South Asia. Pakistan accepted the U.S. advice, but India did not respond. The issue was once again raised when Strobe Talbott, the U.S. deputy secretary of state, visited the region in April.

India then postponed the Prithvi missile test just before Narasimha Rao's visit to the United States. However, as soon as Rao concluded the visit, India test fired the missile and made it clear to the whole world, including the United States, that it is free to deal with its own matters without regard to the advice of the United States or any other country. The U.S. reaction to India's attitude is not only half-hearted, but also superfluous. As far as Pakistan's nuclear program is concerned, it has been clearly pointed out to the United States that Pakistan will not accept any unilateral decision in this regard. Amazingly, India pays no attention to U.S. advice, nor does it care about world public opinion on the nuclear issue or on missile production. This arrogance is leading to a lack of balance of power and is causing concern and apprehension among the smaller countries in the region.

German Report on Expulsion of Diplomats Rejected

BK1306143394 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 13 Jun 94

[Text] Responding to a question regarding a news report published in a local English daily alleging the expulsion of two Pakistani diplomats from Germany, a Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the report by German television was factually incorrect. No Pakistani diplomat has been expelled from Germany as asserted in the report. The spokesman said Pakistan is

procuring a number of sophisticated items of [as heard] equipment from various sources. Normally, it is for supplier companies to obtain export license for restricted items. For its part, Pakistan seeks to scrupulously observe the export laws of the concerned countries. He said the report appears to be an attempt to sensationalize normal transactions.

Unknown Assailants Kill PPP Leader's Son

BK1106162294 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 11 Jun 94

[Text] Tauseeq Ahmed Sheikh was shot dead by some unknown assailants at Badami Bagh in Lahore today. He was son of the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] secretary general, Senator Sheikh Rafiq Ahmed. The assailants escaped after committing the murder. Investigations are in progress.

Delhi Says Arrest of Nawaz Sharif Ordered

BK1506044094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] A report from Pakistan says orders have been issued for the arrest of former prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif. An agency quoting the governor of Punjab Province, Mr. Altaf Hussain, said that the permission of the Speaker of the National Assembly has been sought in this regard. Two members of the provincial assembly of Punjab belonging to Pakistan Muslim League—Nawaz Group, have already been arrested in a case of allotment of plots scandal.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan president, Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, has initiated legal proceedings against Mr. Nawaz Sharif for accusing him of making huge amounts of money by hoarding cotton bales. This was disclosed by Mr. Leghari in Rawalpindi yesterday. He said that he will sue Mr. Nawaz Sharif on another count also.

Spokesman Denies Report

BK1506091294 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Jun 94

[Text] Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, has filed a constitutional petition with the Lahore High Court in which he requested that the provincial government be restrained from filing cases against him.

A spokesman for the Governor's House in Lahore has rejected reports on the possible arrest of opposition leader Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. He said that the provincial governor had given no interview to the GULF NEWS as was reported; therefore, the reports are baseless, fabricated, and speculative.

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